



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

Protection Island Aquatic Reserve Implementation Committee Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Prepared By: Cassie Williams, Michael Grilliot

July 16, 2013

9 am – 12 pm

Cape George Colony Clubhouse

PARTICIPANTS: David Gluckman (Admiralty Audubon), Marty Bluewater (Protection Island Resident), Torben Blichfeld (North Olympic Power & Sail Squadron / Sequim Bay Yacht Club), Megan Black (Diamond Point Property Owner), Lorenz Solman (US Fish & Wildlife Service), Betty Bookheim, Michael Grilliot, Kevin Anderson (WA DNR), Cassie Williams (Washington Conservation Corps)

INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting began at 9:10am

DISCUSSION:

1. The purpose of this meeting is to finalize our management action priorities for future work in the reserve. DNR sent prioritization spreadsheets to the committee and compiled the results that were returned. The results are included in these minutes as an appendix.
 - a. Some management actions are similar and cover individual aspects of a larger effort; therefore DNR grouped management actions into categories. Some of the following categories are from the existing management plan framework but other categories were created to further divide the actions based on implementation needs:
 - Protection
 - Restoration
 - Identify/Inventory Resources
 - Survey/Monitor Resources
 - Partner Research
 - Education and Outreach
 - Passive Actions
 - b. The committee reviewed the prioritization results and agreed with how the actions are prioritized. The following are main thoughts raised during this review.
 - **Restoration:**
 - No Tier I's chosen

- Identify and monitor activities that have the potential for disturbing nesting sea birds and mammals: may overlap with USFWS
 - **Identify/Inventory Resources:**
 - Plans have been implemented by DNR in the past (Baseline data only)
 - Kelp beds have already been monitored for ~21 years
 - **Survey/Monitor Resources:**
 - Interest in funding monitoring buoys to measure oceanographic trends to begin understanding the reason behind the decline of and increase of kelp in different areas of the reserve.
 - **Partner Research:**
 - Identified as top priority if we are to complete research in the reserve
 - Research must be within the reserve to leverage funding.
 - **Education and Outreach**
 - We are aware of adjacent properties and activities and authorities that overlap the reserve
 - Strive to improve communication between agencies and the public
 - **Passive actions:**
 - Everyone chose as Tier I high priority
 - Land use actions are *very* important
- c. Kelp beds are the highest priority, which is a great start. We will focus on this topic in the next meeting. Please send ideas to outside experts that could be brought in?
- d. There are also concerns of human disturbance to seabird nesting. Studies have been going on in other reserves that are very helpful to seabird monitoring. Discuss how to implement seabird monitoring at a future meeting.
2. The committee engaged in a short discussion on how Eagle predation has been increasing on Protection Island. Comments below:

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

- a. There was a comment that citizens have been feeding them near the reserve, potentially increasing the area's population and effect on. Outreach and education about the situation on Protection Island may help decrease these effects.
- b. How humans are impacting the reserve should become part of the implementation. When PI was made a refuge, the Eagles were listed into the endangered species act (ESA). Long-term, it is going to hit its carrying capacity. We do not know the carrying capacity of the island for the different species living there; this resource must be protected as a seabird sanctuary. Perusing these answers should be *a very high priority*.
- c. Deer management plan: WDFW is starting to approach this. The deer do some damage, but not nearly as much as the eagles. Mostly photographic evidence is being documented.

- d. Ultimately, we are talking about who and what species use the reserve and what we can do to facilitate that. Protection Island is managed by the USFWS, this committee can focus on education and outreach about issues on the island that effect population we are trying to protect but this committee must focus on what we can do in the reserve to maintain or increase habitat for species that use the area.

3. Update on PSC operations in the Protection Island Aquatic Reserve

- Cassie discussed projects the PSC has been working on in the reserve. The PSC has been doing a great job with the seagrass monitoring, forage fish surveys, and baseline sediment sampling. These should be continued!

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

- DNR staff commented that because we have found surf smelt this summer near Travis spit, It would be beneficial to visit Protection island and survey there. USFWS believes next year would be an easier time to plan because this is the last year of the pigeon guillemot study which requires monitoring of undisturbed behavior.
- The committee expressed interest in the baseline sediment sampling. More information should be provided at the next meeting about this work.
- Next meeting: bring forage fish data to share There was a comment that citizens
- There was a comment asking whether permission is needed from DNR to conduct surveys within the reserves.
 - Permission is not needed from DNR to unless these surveys involve permanent anchors and/or near shore structures.
 - This is concerning to committee members because in the event of environmental disturbance (potentially catastrophic) there is no one to hold accountable. Education on this topic is needed, perhaps a form or system in place to notify DNR of studies occurring in the reserve is necessary.

4. DNR Updates

- a. Mussel watch metal contaminant results are in. They will be made public when WDFW receives the rest of the data.
 - i. There were no striking differences between the seven reserves.
 - ii. Concentrations increased from the wet to dry tissue samples for all the reserves.
 - iii. Copper increased a greater degree in the dry tissue vs wet tissue than other metals.

CLOSING:

The next meeting will be held at the end of 2013 (Nov/Dec). A doodle poll will be sent out to the committee with suggested meeting dates and times.

Please suggest experts whom you would like to come and speak towards future management and research on kelp.

NEXT STEPS:

- Suggest kelp experts to speak at the next meeting
- It might be of benefit to have a small group go and talk to the MRC's or other local groups (county commissioners) and give them a little bit of a background of the aquatic reserve. What we are able to do, what our interests are and how we can network with them.

The meeting concluded at 11:30am

APPENDIX A: RESULTS OF THE MANAGEMENT ACTION PRIORITIZATION

Begins on the next page

Protection Island Aquatic Reserve Management Action Implementation

Please mark an 'x' in the boxes to mark your selection. Rename the worksheet name on the bottom tab as your name. Contact Michael Grilliot @ michael.grilliot@dnr.wa.gov if you have any questions.

	Tier (choose one)		Priority (choose one)			Implementation Committee Scope (choose one)		Implementation (select all, if any, that apply)		Other Information, write in space provided	
	Tier 1	Tier 2	High	Med	Low	Actively engage	Pursue partnerships	Currently Implemented?	Passive Action?	Potential Funding Sources (\$ or in-kind)	Comments
Protection											
IA3	Continue to recognize and support the Commissioner of Public Lands withdrawal order 88-107 dated 22 November 1988 for bedlands around Protection Island.										
IA4	Support renewal of aquatic land lease (No. 20-013245) for the second class tidelands around Protection Island to the USFWS.										
IB1	Support emergency enhancement activities that mitigate the effects of oil-spills.										
IA2	Emphasize acquisition of adjacent tidelands and shoreline property through gifts.										
IA6	Close or restrict public use in critical habitat as required to protect the habitat.										
IA1	Develop partnerships to encourage placement of important habitat on adjacent lands into conservation easements.										
Restoration											
IC1	Control invasive species populations to avoid habitat damage.										
IB2	Work with partners to identify potential enhancement activities that will support the management of the reserve.										
Identify/Inventory Resources											
IIA4	Collaborate with local, state, federal, and tribal governments, and local non-profits to inventory what data exists for the region and support a collective data repository.										
IIA5	Coordinate with private, governmental, and tribal partners, to continually identify data gaps and organize inventory efforts, data collection standards.										
IIB1	Identify and monitor activities that have the potential for disturbing nesting sea birds and mammals.										
IIA6	Identify native and sensitive habitat to prioritize inventory efforts.										
IIA8	Establish a dataset cataloging current shoreline alterations and the condition of the shoreline on a drift cell scale, which will require data outside the reserve boundary.										
IIA1	Identify and characterize harmful human induced disturbances, derelict or ghost commercial and recreational fishing, crabbing, and shrimping gear, derelict vessels, creosote pilings, abandoned utilities, or any other human-created product that is possibly damaging the aquatic environment and not promoting the goals and objectives of the reserve.										
Survey/Monitor Resources											
IIB6	Focus monitoring efforts on native <i>Nereocystis</i> kelp beds.										
IIB4	Support and partner on monitoring programs in support of the reserve's goals and objectives.										
IIC3	Support and partner with, when possible, WSU's Beach Watchers intertidal sampling and data collection efforts.										
IIB2	Monitor the effects of climate change (sea-level rise, ocean acidification, seasonal changes in salinity) on the aquatic resources within the reserve.										
IIB3	Conduct forage fish spawning surveys in partnership with WDFW and WSU Beach Watchers.										
IIA2	Partner with WSU's Beach Watchers to survey for possible forage fish spawning beach locations.										
IIA3	Support intertidal sampling and eelgrass mapping efforts.										
IIB5	Monitor the effects of shoreline armoring, if any, on the function and integrity of documented drift cells.										

Partner Research

IIC1	Work with anyone interested in proposing research in support of the reserve’s goals and objectives.	X		X				X				Concerned with the "work with anyone" statement. --- Need for focus on this so reserve addresses priority issues. ---
IIC2	Ensure the scope of research and studies is appropriate for comprehensive management of the Protection Island Aquatic Reserve.	X		X			X					This will be the challenge f this is done using #C1 --- Critical for Committee. ---
IVC1	Strive to work with proponents of research and monitoring programs within the aquatic reserve to ensure consistency with the reserve’s goals and objectives.	X				X		X				This is repetitive. ---
IIC4	Support research parameters characterized in a context that contribute to and are appropriate for between-site comparisons across the network of aquatic reserves and marine protected areas throughout Puget Sound.	X				X		X				Makes sense for big picture understanding ---
IIC5	Research opportunities exist within the reserve for studying oceanographic influences of two major waterways: Strait of Juan de Fuca and Admiralty Inlet, and how they affect the larger Salish Sea.	X				X		X				This ties into the climate change work ---

Education & Outreach

IVA1	Strive to improve communication between other local, state, and federal agencies on permitting applications for activities in and adjacent to the reserve.	X		X			X		X		DNR ---	DNR is currently working with regulatory and permitting agencies to encourage communication on issues pertaining to DNR's management authority ---
III1	Support signage efforts, and provide funding when possible, at public access points, and other areas, to convey conservation ethics and stewardship etiquette of the reserve.	X				X		X			DNR, WCC ---	DNR is developing signs for each reserve. As of March 2013, Nisqually Reach and Fidalgo Bay are being designed. Signs for Protection Island will be discussed at an Implementation Committee Meeting. ---
III2	Work cooperatively with local tribes, other natural resource agencies and/or private institutions to develop appropriate interpretive materials and activities.			X		X		X			DNR, WCC, ? ---	This will be Implemented when DNR begins developing Protection Island Aquatic Reserve Signs. ---
III3	Support, and when possible partner with efforts of local environmental education stewards such as Service, Education, Adventure (SEA), Salish Sea Expeditions, Port Townsend Marine Science Center, and other potential environmental educators.			X		X		X				
IVD1	Partner with various entities to support various environmental education opportunities for the Protection Island Aquatic Reserve and ensure appropriate access is allowed.			X		X		X				

Passive Actions

IA7	Prioritize protection of existing kelp beds within the reserve above all other potential uses.	X		X				X		X	DNR ---	Will any other than passive action be undertaken? Is anything else feasible? ---
IC2	Evaluate and approve new proposals for restoration projects on state-owned aquatic lands within the reserve. DNR Aquatic Reserves Program staff will support only those proposals that are consistent with the management of the reserve.	X		X				X		X	nr --- consortium ---	Needs to follow on information gathered from I&M work --- DNR will also need to define needs, so proposals can be focused on these. ---
IC3	Support activities, whether DNR-led or otherwise, that restore environments damaged by human-produced disturbances by removing derelict or ghost fishing gear, creosote pilings, derelict vessels, abandoned utilities, or any other human-created products that are damaging the aquatic environment and not promoting the goals and objectives of the reserve.	X		X				X		X	dnr ---	Should plan a survey, if not already done, to identify if there is anything already there. More baseline data. ---
IC4	Support efforts to connect management activities with existing restoration projects and plans for the area.	X		X				X		X		Evaluate existing programs to make certain they coincide with reserve goals. ---
IC5	Prioritize restoration projects that support the prosperity of endangered, threatened or sensitive species and habitat.	X		X				X		X	WDFW, FWS, etc. ---	
V1	Decline to authorize new cable, pipeline, tidal or wind energy facilities, or any bedland and tideland disturbing activities that are not consistent with the management of the aquatic reserve.	X		X			X			X	DNR ---	
V2	Authorize new uses, unforeseen or not listed in the management plan, only if the use is consistent with the purpose of the reserve, the goals and objectives, and management actions described in chapters 2, 4, and 5 respectively.	X		X			X			X	DNR ---	Seems reptitive. ---
V3	Project proponents for new uses must clearly demonstrate and document consistency with the purpose of the reserve, the goals and objectives, and the management actions described in chapters 2, 4, and 5 respectively. Aquatic Reserves Program staff, in consultation with region staff will make determinations about the consistency of any proposed uses within the reserve. Determinations will be based on scientific knowledge of the proposed use. If adequate scientific data on a proposed use is not available, DNR may require project proponents to conduct studies addressing such data gaps.	X		X			X			X	DNR ---	Maybe should be paid by proponent but conducted by independent entity. ---