



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

# Protection Island Aquatic Reserve Implementation Committee Meeting Minutes

Prepared By: Michael Grilliot

December 10, 2012

Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 715 Holgerson Rd, Sequim, WA.

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**PARTICIPANTS:** **David Gluckman** (Admiralty Audubon), **Torben Blichfeld** (North Olympic Power & Sail Squadron / Sequim Bay Yacht Club), **Jim Gift** (Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society), **John Woolley** (Sierra Club North Olympic Group / Friends of Miller Peninsula State Park), **Megan Black** (Diamond Point Property Owner), **Kevin Ryan** (US Fish & Wildlife Service), **Betty Bookheim**, **Jason Wilkinson**, **Kyle Murphy**, **Michael Grilliot** (WA DNR), **Meagan Harris** (Washington Conservation Corps)

## **INTRODUCTIONS:**

## **DISCUSSION:**

1. There were short updates from committee participants
  - USFWS - They are not sure why there was such a large mortality of pigeon guillemots but they are monitoring them. The deer situation remains the same, they are developing removal plans but they will likely go through a NEPA process. They are also working on small grassland restoration.
  - Status of citizen group to support the Aquatic Reserve - A non-profit is the easier approach to apply for grants. The committee agreed that it should be named, "Friends of Protection Island Aquatic Reserve." Megan will follow up to determine executive and board positions.
  - Audubon Society – Christmas bird count last year was Monday Dec 19<sup>th</sup>, 151 species. They are building Purple Martin boxes and starting to re-establish the species on the peninsula. Audubon received a grant to expand the "Puget Sound Seabird Survey" to include the north shore of Olympic Peninsula.
2. There was an update by Meagan Harris from the Puget Sound Corps, part of the Washington Conservation Corps, on the work they are doing to support the Aquatic Reserves Program and the Protection Island Aquatic Reserve. The Presentation is available on the Protection Island Aquatic Reserve Website.
3. The group went through a collaborative prioritization process to identify management actions from the Protection Island Aquatic Reserve Management Plan that committee members think

are worth pursuing first. The results will be used to develop an implementation work plan in 2013. The suggested priority actions were grouped into the same categories as those found in the plan:

- Resource protection, enhancement and restoration
  - Monitoring and research activities within the reserve
  - Environmental education
  - Allowable Uses
  - Other Uses
- The prioritized list provides the actions identified by committee members organized into Tier 1 and Tier 2 priorities. The results of this discussion are attached to the end of these minutes as Appendix A.

#### Questions/Comments

- There was a suggestion to reach out to Pacific Northwest National Labs (PNNL) Sequim Labs to have them give a presentation to the committee on current research.
- There was a suggestion to have a kelp specialist give a presentation to the group about kelp restoration and research related to the Protection Island Reserve area.

#### **CLOSING:**

The next meeting will be held at the end of Feb. A doodle poll will be sent out to with these meeting minutes asking for possible meeting dates.

- Next Actions for DNR:
  1. Contact PNNL Sequim Lab to discuss the possibility of a presentation of current research.
  2. Look into having a kelp specialist discuss research and restoration opportunities.
  3. Follow up with USFWS about forage fish sampling on Protection Island.
  4. Forward Meagan Harris's presentation to the committee.

# Appendix A – Results from the Management Action Prioritization Exercise

Page numbers corresponding to the location in the management plan where that management action can be found are listed in brackets after each management action.

The following categorized lists are arranged into Tier 1 and Tier 2 priorities. Actions within each tier are not arranged in order of importance.

## **Resource protection, enhancement and restoration**

### Tier 1

- I. A. 7. Prioritize protection of existing kelp beds within the reserve above all other potential uses. [p. 36]

### Tier 2

- I. A. 1. Develop partnerships to encourage placement of important habitat on adjacent lands into conservation easements. [p. 36]
- I. A. 2. Emphasize acquisition of adjacent tidelands and shoreline property through gifts. [p. 36]
- I. A. 5. Allow succession and other natural processes to operate unimpeded. [p. 36]
- I. A. 6. Close or restrict public use in critical habitat as required to protect the habitat. [p. 36]
- I. B. 1. Support emergency enhancement activities that mitigate the effects of oil-spills. [p. 37]
- I. B. 2. Work with partners to identify potential enhancement activities that will support the management of the reserve. [p. 37]
- I. C. 1. Control invasive species populations to avoid habitat damage. [p. 37]
- I. C. 2. 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. [p. 37]
- I. C. 3. 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. [p. 37]

- I. C. 5. Prioritize restoration projects that support the prosperity of endangered, threatened or sensitive species and habitat. [p. 37]

## Research and Monitoring

### Tier 1

- II. A. 4. 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. [p. 38]
- II. A. 5. Coordinate with private, governmental, and tribal partners, to continually identify data gaps and organize inventory efforts, data collection standards. [p. 39]
- II. B. 2. Monitor the effects of climate change (sea-level rise, ocean acidification, seasonal changes in salinity) on the aquatic resources within the reserve. [p. 39]
- II. B. 3. Conduct forage fish spawning surveys in partnership with WDFW and WSU Beach Watchers. [p. 39]

### Tier 2

- II. A. 1. 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. [p. 38]
- II. A. 2. Partner with WSU's Beach Watchers to survey for possible forage fish spawning beach locations. [p. 38]
- II. B. 1. Identify and monitor activities that have the potential for disturbing nesting sea birds and mammals. [p. 39]
- II. B. 5. Monitor the effects of shoreline armoring, if any, on the function and integrity of documented drift cells. [p. 40]
- II. B. 6. Focus monitoring efforts on native *Nereocystis* kelp beds. [p. 40]
- II. C. 1. Work with anyone interested in proposing research in support of the reserve's goals and objectives. [p. 40]
- II. C. 5. 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. [p. 40]

## Environmental Education

### Tier 1

- III. 1. 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. [p. 41]
- III. 3. 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. [p. 41]

## **Allowable Uses**

### Tier 1

- IV. A. 1. Strive to improve communication between other local, state, and federal agencies on permitting applications for activities in and adjacent to the reserve. [p. 41]

### Tier 2

- IV. B. 1. Allow actions that protect, enhance, and restore the Protection Island Aquatic Reserve within the aquatic reserve if conducted under a plan approved by DNR. [p. 41]

## **Other Uses**

### Tier 2

- V. 1. 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. [p. 42]