



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

Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve Implementation Committee Meeting Minutes

Prepared By: Michael Grilliot

June 26, 2012

Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, Lacey, WA

PARTICIPANTS: Kyle Murphy, Betty Bookheim, Michael Grilliot (Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources), Scott Steltzner (Squaxin Indian Tribe), Doug Meyers, Mary Lou Peltier (Nisqually Reach Nature Center), Jerry Johannes (Anderson Island), Christopher Ellings, David Trout, Sue Shotwell (Nisqually Tribe), Bob Pacunski (Washington State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife), Pete Stoltz (CalPortland), Mat Buldis (National Fish & Oyster Company), Jesse Barham (Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge), Carol Paschal (Anderson Island Park District), Tom Kantz (Pierce County), Bill Dewey (Taylor Shellfish Company), Cynthia Wilson (Thurston County).

INTRODUCTIONS:

10:00 am – The meeting started with attendee introductions

Kyle asks for suggestions to modify the agenda – there were none.

Kyle reviewed purpose of meeting

UPDATES:

1. The DNR Aquatic Reserves Program provided an update on the National Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Center National meeting. The National MPA center is working to facilitate information sharing between its national system partners, the Aquatic Reserves Program being one of many. This will allow MPA managers to communicate ideas and learn from one another more effectively.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

There was a comment that the “MPA News” publication should be linked on DNR’s Aquatic Reserves website.

2. DNR Aquatic Reserves Program discussed several projects DNR is currently moving forward on in the Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve, and throughout the aquatic reserves network. Projects include:

- Developing a baseline monitoring network for all reserves, similar to those in National Marine Sanctuaries. Presently other projects DNR has done in aquatic reserves incorporate Puget Sound-wide protocols and are capable of being incorporated into state-wide data bases; i.e., forage fish spawning beaches (WDFW), and eelgrass surveys (PSEMP / DNR SVMP eelgrass monitoring Program). DNR would like to work with the Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve Implementation Committee and other aquatic reserve implementation committees to develop such a network.
- \$750,000 in Jobs Now Act funding for reserves. This money will employ the Puget Sound Corps program to conduct some baseline monitoring in all reserves. This project will be funding through June of 2013 with a possible extension through June of 2015. Monitoring possibilities include the following:
 - Monthly beach spawning forage fish surveys (WDFW protocols)
 - Eelgrass monitoring using Seagrass Net protocols.
 - Water quality monitoring through Sound Citizen monitoring network.
 - Sediment sample archival for potential natural resource damage assessment.
 - COASST seabird surveys and Mussel Watch monitoring.
- In addition the DNR aquatic reserve Puget Sound Corps crews will conduct monthly beach cleanup and creosote log identification and removal in cooperation with DNR's creosote removal program.
- DNR will also work with implementation committees and other partners to develop and install educational signage for some of the reserves. Funding and Puget Sound Corps support may also be available to assist with partner led activities.
- DNR will be contacting partners and adjacent landowners/managers to facilitate appropriate beach access for monitoring and beach cleanup and other logistical support needs.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

- There was a question about whether the Seagrass Net protocol tracks *Zostera japonica*? Concern was expressed over the invasion of *Z.japonica* in the intertidal and it was suggested that is something we should consider.
Response: Currently the reserves will be specifically targeting *Zostera marina* for monitoring (this is also presently the focus for DNR SVMP), but *Z.japonica* distribution is measured and tracked if present at the monitoring site.
- A comment was made about monitoring protocols that could be performed from a kayak should be recognized because there is a large kayaking community active in Nisqually Reach.
- A question was asked whether this monitoring is opportunistic or contributes to the greater need for monitoring or a monitoring plan in the region. It was stressed that it is important to have a sense of why we are monitoring and to keep in mind what is important for our monitoring needs. Responding to opportunistic projects is good but we should not lose sight of our goal and commit all of our resources to a project if it

does not contribute to the larger plan. Being able to alter monitoring projects to what is important to the region is critical.

Response: This monitoring was a bit of both. We have funding available that will address monitoring efforts identified in the majority of reserve management plans. However, this implementation committee is in a position to help develop the needs and priorities for monitoring in the Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve. Some of the Puget Sound Corps monitoring projects are still proposals and can be changed and altered based on developing and changing needs. Additionally, some of this PSC monitoring will be a good baseline for the reserve.

- There was discussion about establishing and training dedicated individuals for a reserve oil spill response plan. It was suggested that a future committee meeting could include a presentation from the State's oil spill response program, and discussion of a possible reserves focused training and response program.
- A comment was made urging that ocean acidification is something that we should monitor within the reserve and reserve network.
- The issue of derelict vessels was discussed, specifically how the reserves program and DNR will handle derelict vessels in the reserve. This issue should be a part of the Puget Sound Partnerships Action Agenda and should be a priority for DNR. The specific issue of the two derelict ferries on Ketron and Anderson Islands was brought up. DNR was able to confirm that these vessels are not on state-owned aquatic lands, and therefore outside of the scope of the DNR derelict vessel removal program. WDFW indicated that they could be addressed through a potential violation of the HPA laws. WDFW staff was going to bring the issue to the HPA program and report back to the committee.
- There was a question of whether microplastic monitoring is a part of the sediment sampling.
Response: DNR does not believe it is but that is something we may be able to look at with the Puget Sound Corps work.

3. Presentations were given about various projects related to Nisqually Reach and the Aquatic Reserve:

- Nisqually near shore fish monitoring – Chris Ellings, Nisqually Tribe/ Michael Grilliot, WDNR
- SeaGrant Nearshore study on shoreline armoring – Helen Berry, DNR
- WDFW ROV surveys – Bob Pakunski, WDFW
- Jacobs Point acquisition – Carol Paschal, Anderson Island Parks District

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

- There was a suggestion that the Army Corps of Engineers be asked to give a presentation about their driftwood collection in south Puget Sound and to discuss the possibility of providing this wood for restoration projects.

4. The DNR Aquatic Reserves Program then provided a summary of the Implementation Committee's purpose and responsibility and invited comments on the committee charter before the next meeting to finalize the committee charter. He then invited comments on committee representation and the committee's next actions

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

- There was discussion about the Puget Sound Partnership's participation in this committee?
Response: DNR has reached out to the Partnership in relation to this and other reserve committees. They have participated in Protection Island, Smith & Minor Island and Nisqually Reach planning committees to varying degrees. They have been invited to participate on all the Implementation Committees... it is in the works to further encourage Partnership participation.
- There was a question on how information about use authorizations will be brought to the committee and what role the committee will hold regarding use authorizations.
Response: The management plan describes that DNR will bring information to the committee regarding use authorizations it deems appropriate to authorize in the reserve. Each committee member will be able to comment on the application, knowing that there will be differing opinions amongst committee members. DNR will take these comments into consideration when making a final decision. It was stressed that while commenting on use authorizations is a function of the committee, the main purpose of the committee should be to focus on research, restoration, and education, which is the focus of the vast majority of reserve program staff time.
- There was a comment on the committee being informed of dredge disposal activities at the dredge disposal site in the reserve.
Response: This will occur now that the reserves program is better staffed. DNR staff also offered to coordinate with the Anderson Island community council to provide a dredge management program presentation to interested island residents.
- There was a suggestion to have the Oil Spill Program give a presentation at the next committee meeting to discuss options for training readily available personnel for south sound oil spill response. Committee members will follow-up with the Alliance for a healthy South Sound and the National Estuarine Program.
- There was a suggestion to have Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) be represented at the committee.
- It was suggested that a catalog of restoration and monitoring projects be put together to help evaluate and identify priorities for monitoring and restoration for the larger region.
- The committee should respond to the Ocean Acidification Workgroup's recommendations.
- There was a request to send out a list of contacts for the committee.

- DNR expressed a desire to have a Puget Sound Corps meeting before the next implementation Committee meeting because there will likely be boots on the ground before this.

CLOSING:

The next meeting will be held in about 4 months. A survey monkey will be sent out to everyone in the next month or so asking for possible meeting dates.

1:00 pm – The meeting was concluded

- Next Actions for DNR:
 1. Send out a digital copy of the draft committee charter, meeting minutes, and a list of contacts for the committee.
 2. Include a link to the the “MPA News” publication on the Aquatic Reserves website.
 3. Investigate the possibility of looking at micro-plastics in the Nisqually Reach environment.
 4. Ask the Corps of Engineers and the Oil Spill program to give a presentation about there driftwood collection in south Puget Sound and the oil-spill response in south Puget Sound, respectively.
 5. Work on getting Puget Sound Partnership and JBLM participation in this committee.
 6. Work with Nisqually Tribe on a catalog of restoration/monitoring projects in the region.
- Possible discussion topics for future committee meetings
 - Ocean Acidification
 - Developing a monitoring plan
 - Monitoring by citizen groups (kayakers)
 - Drift wood storage for restoration projects
 - Oil-spill response and training
 - Derelict vessels