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San Juan Marine Resources Committee Marine Managers Workshop Summary



New Findings and Emerging Issues within the San Juan County Marine Stewardship Area

February 28 & March 1, 2011 University of Washington Friday Harbor Labs

The San Juan Marine Resources Committee sponsored the seventh workshop held annually in the San Juan Islands since 2004 to bring together federal, tribal, state and local organizations and agencies that have management responsibilities in the San Juan Islands. Fifty-three participants and fourteen speakers participated in the two day workshop. A list of participants is included at the end of this report. Amy Windrope, workshop facilitator went over workshop goals and logistics.

The purpose of the workshop was to share information and spark discussion on new findings and emerging issues in the San Juan Marine Stewardship Area for the following topic areas:

- Oil spill preparedness relevant to the Salish Sea
- Managing growth in island communities
- Protecting the southern resident killer whales
- Learning more about how to target salmon recovery in the San Juans

INTRODUCTION

Jacques White, Executive Director of Long Live the Kings introduced the workshop by providing a history of his relationship with the San Juan Marine Resources Committee and the San Juan Marine Stewardship Area. He gave some background for each of the session topics. He pointed out that concern over the threat of oil spills triggered the push behind a national marine sanctuary which resulted in the formation of the first marine resources committee in the San Juans as a local alternative. The listing of southern resident killer whales is one of the most important tools to address salmon recovery since the ESA listing in 1999. It's important to continue to engage and educate people. Most people live in the San Juans because they appreciate and care about the sea.. If we can't do marine conservation in the San Juan Islands, there's not much hope elsewhere. We need to continue to conduct research, but not be paralyzed by not having enough science.

ROUND TABLE UPDATES

Participants shared updates on their programs and identified emerging issues relevant to the San Juan County Marine Stewardship Area.

NEW FINDINGS AND EMERGING ISSUES—WORKSHOP SESSIONS

The workshop included sessions centered on the four topics. Brief descriptions of each presentation are given below. PowerPoint presentations and handouts which were provided by the presenters are posted on the MRC website: www.sjcmrc.org.

MANAGING GROWTH IN ISLAND COMMUNITIES

The goal of this session was to:

- Identify new resources for shoreline stewardship
- Learn about the Canadian approach for managing growth in the Gulf Islands
- Prepare for the 2013 Marine Managers Workshop focused on land use in island communities.

Green Shores as a Tool to Encourage Shoreline Stewardship, Kat Hoffman, Washington Sea Grant.

Green Shores for Homes is an EPA funded project that will be piloted in Lake Washington, San Juan County and the Canadian Gulf Islands based on the Green Shores Canadian program for larger scale mixed use development. A voluntary credit rating system, modeled after LEED, using a 3rd party certification process and incentives "to encourage and accelerate adoption of sustainable green building and development practices" will promote greater setbacks, soft-shore approaches, riparian buffers and stormwater management by shoreline residential property owners.

Managing Growth in Island Communities, New Projects in San Juan County, Julie Thompson, San Juan County Community Development and Planning.

This EPA funded project will be piloted in the Eastsound (Orcas Island) and Westcott/Garrison Bays (San Juan Island) watersheds offering workshops, site visits and cost share to help property owners care for on-site septic systems, manage stormwater, prevent pollution and sustainably manage shorelines.. In addition, the project will integrate low impact development in county codes and construct an engineered wetland in Eastsound to treat runoff. It will culminate in a transboundary workshop in 2013 to showcase programs, resources and approaches for managing growth in island communities. The participants at the Marine Managers Workshop offered the following advice for the workshop planned for 2013.

- Engage Canadian politicians
- Involve San Juan County Council and Community Development and Planning staff
- Present research and policies
- Include real estate and building professionals
- Highlight lessons learned
- Discuss how to catch people before they build
- Highlight Islands Trust/County Council collaboration
- Highlight impacts to ecology
- Highlight differences in how Canada and Washington protect habitat
- Do a pre-survey to generate information for a common vision
- Follow a model from Skagit County for visioning

- Invite Skagit County
- How will this dovetail with the Shoreline Master Program update (timing)
- Build transboundary momentum
- Export lessons learned to greater Puget Sound community.
- Prepare results for the Georgia Basin/Puget Sound research conference

Managing Growth in Island Communities: a tailored approach, by Mac Fraser, Islands Trust.

Mac Fraser, Director of Islands Trust, the planning agency for the Gulf Islands described their program based on an ecosystem approach combining wave energy, geology, nearshore processes and freshwater inputs in their tailored approach for shoreline development. As partners in the Green Shores for Homes program, they intend to integrate the certification program into their regulatory framework.

Comments:

The group offered the following comments on managing growth:

- Limit nearshore pollution
- Rely on education for property owners
- Develop a list of toxic stuff so people can avoid
- County should model LID in its own building
- Highlight and promote property owners that do the right thing
- Assure people about flexibility
- Use ferry landings as models
- Work with property owners with technical assistance on how to install rain gardens, etc.
- Sustainability is at odds with capitalism
- Tie small projects to big goals
- Build a stewardship ethic through:
- Common goals from diverse perspectives
- Tie economy to environmental health
- Reach absentee owners
- Small projects with small groups are successful
- Government should lead by example
- Community visioning is valuable
- Be inclusive
- Showcase with field trips showing good stewardship

OIL SPILL SESSION

Presentations and discussion facilitated by Brendan Cowan, Director of San Juan County's Emergency Management, focused on current oil spill preparedness and prevention with a transboundary focus especially in regard to:

- How San Juan County can influence and improve oil spill preparedness and prevention.
- How the community can work together to achieve effective outcomes
- Identify key issues for future discussion and action at the 2012 Marine Managers Workshop
- Provide a trans-boundary forum for oil spill coordination in the Salish Sea.

Presenters:

Captain Ferguson, US Coast Guard gave an overview of Coast Guard activities to prevent and prepare for oil spills in San Juan County. He gave an overview of the Coast Guard Reauthorization Bill regarding oil spills and identified opportunities for local participation and citizen involvement.

Clare Frater, Policy Analyst for Islands Trust gave an overview of oil spill risk, preparedness and challenges in the Gulf Islands. She also gave a summary of the Islands Trust advocacy program.

Todd Hass, Oil Spill Specialist with the Puget Sound Partnership Recent Oil Spill-related Recommendations and Risk Assessment for Washington presented priorities from the State's Cross Partnership Oil Spill Work Group and described the next steps for that group. He summarized current thinking on risk assessments to reduce the probability of oil spills and identified trans-boundary issues of importance.

Strait of Juan de Fuca Ecosystem Recovery Network Oil Spill Task Force John Cambalik, Puget Sound Partnership

summarized work occurring within the Strait Action Area on oil spills including tribal interests and concerns. He discussed where San Juan County and Strait Action Areas might collaborate.

Julie Knight, from the Island Oil Spill Association gave an overview of the IOSA's work with training volunteers for oil spill response and wildlife response training. She identified some of her organizations needs

The panel offered suggestions for MRC's and communities involvement:

- Produce a position paper on the use of dispersants.
- Serve as local experts on marine ecosystem
- Provide a list of names to help in the event of a crisis.
- Obtain training in spill drills

- Help with volunteer management
- Obtain baseline survey on current levels of oil in sediments/organisms
- Logistics, care and feeding of thousands of people may be required

DAY 2

SOUTHERN RESIDENT KILLER WHALE SESSION

Presenters provided updates on the orca management plan and recent research on impacts to the whales answering the question—what does the recent research suggest for improving protection of southern resident killer whales?

Presenters:

Findings and Next Steps for Kayak Education Program on W. Side of SJI Soundwatch Kayaker Education and Monitoring Program, Kari Koski, Soundwatch Coordinator

. Soundwatch provided training and conducted a shore based monitoring program to better characterize trends on the Westside of San Juan Island and measure kayakers compliance with whale watching guidelines and regulations. They found 594 incidents of non-compliance while observing 2106 kayakers. These incidents could likely be avoided if kayakers started moving out of the way sooner.

Results from Recent Studies on Vessel Impacts to Southern Resident Killer Whales, Dawn Noren, NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center Fisheries Biologist

Dawn Noren presented research from several recent studies on vessel impacts. A vocal compensation study by Dr. Marla Holt included that SRKW calls increased in amplitude with increasing vessel noise. Dr. David Bain found that whales reduce foraging and increase travel when vessels are present within 100 and 400 meters. Dr. Noren presented results from her work which showed a higher proportion of surface active behaviors (tail slapping, breaching, etc) when vessels were close.

Southern Resident Prey Preferences,

Determining killer whale diet using genetic techniques from what they leave in their wake, Candace Emmons, NW Fisheries Science Center Fisheries Biologist

The objective of this research was to determine prey preferences of southern resident killer whales. Chinook salmon from the Fraser River, despite their relatively low abundance in the area, are of primary importance to SRKW in their summer range. May and September appear to be transition months both in terms of species eaten and Chinook eaten from other regions.

Update on Implementation of the Southern Resident Killer Whales Recovery Plan, Donna Darm, NOAA Assistant Regional Administrator, NOAA Fisheries Service Donna gave an overview of NOAA's work since listing the Southern Resident Killer Whales as endangered in 2005. Emerging issues include a UW review of economic analysis of the listing by local economist, the human use of the proposed no-go zone

through aerial vessel survey and impacts from kayaks. Participants were encouraged to use an online form to track implementation of the recovery plan: http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Marine-Mammals/Whales-Dolphins-Porpoise/Killer-Whales/Recovery-Implement/index.cfm. Additional information about the recovery plans can be found at orca.plan@noaa.gov.

A panel discussion facilitated by Kit Rawson followed the presentations.

SALMON SESSION

WRIA 2 Habitat Based Assessment of Juvenile Salmon Eric Beamer, Research Director, Skagit River System Cooperative

Beach seines and tow net surveys were conducted to determine when juvenile salmon are present in the San Juan Islands, how long they stay, where they are found, what they're doing, and where they come from (river or stock of origin). Best places for finding Chinook are pocket beaches and estuaries.. WRIA 2 would benefit from better shoreform data in GIS (especially for pocket beaches).

Steve Revella, Chair of the San Juan Marine Resources Committee gave concluding remarks and thanked participants, helpers and staff for their contributions as well as the University of Washington for hosting the event.

San Juan Marine Managers Workshop Survey

The MRC emailed a survey to participants via Survey Monkey two days after the workshop to evaluate its value for participants. 22 people responded to the survey.

1. How were the facilities and arrangements for the workshop?

| | Unsatisfactory | Satisfactory | Good | Excellent | Responses |
|--|----------------|--------------|------|-----------|-----------|
| Pre- workshop email reminders | 2 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 21 |
| Location | 0 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 21 |
| Food | 0 | 0 | 10 | 11 | 21 |
| Facilitation | 0 | 0 | 7 | 14 | 21 |
| Lodging (town or FHL) | 1 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 12 |

2. Were the goals and objectives of the workshop clear?

Yes: 68.2% 15 responses Somewhat: 31.8% 7 responses

No: 0 responses

3. Did you feel the objectives were met?

Yes: 68.2% 15 responses Somewhat: 27.3% 6 responses No: 4.5% 1 response

4. Which best describes your workshop experience?

The overall content of the workshop met my needs and expectations:

Strongly disagree: 0 disagree: 2 no opinion: 1 agree: 12 strongly agree: 6

responses: 21

5. The length of the workshop was adequate:

Strongly disagree: 0 disagree: 0 no opinion: 1 agree: 16 strongly agree 3

responses: 20

6. Please rate the following parts of the workshop from 1 (most valuable to you) to 6 (least valuable to you.) 1: Most valuable, 2: More valuable, 3: Somewhat valuable

4: Less valuable 5: Least valuable

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A | Rating average | Responses |
|--|-------------|-------------|------------|-----------|---------|----------|----------------|-----------|
| Networking opportunity | 28.6% 6 | 47.5% 10 | 14.3% 3 | 9.5% 2 | 0% 0 | 0% 0 | 2.05 | 21 |
| Sharing information about my program | 9.5% | 28.6% | 23.8% | 19% 4 | 0% | 19% 4 | 2.65 | 21 |
| Learning about/getting updates/discussing local programs | 19% | 42.9% | 38.1% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 2.19 | 21 |
| Learning about/getting updates/discussing regional and transboundary programs | 57.1% 10 | 19% 4 | 19% 4 | 4.8% | 0% | 0% | 1.71 | 21 |
| Discussion on specific topics or issues of concern | 47.6% 10 | 23.8% | 28.6% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 1.81 | 21 |
| Exploring potential areas for | 14.3% 3 | 52.4% 11 | 19% 4 | 9.2% 2 | 0% 0 | 0% 0 | 2.25 | 21 |

| collaboration | | | | |
|---------------|--|--|--|--|

Most valuable, 2: More valuable, 3: Somewhat valuable 4: Less valuable 5: Least valuable

7. Overall, I would rate this workshop as: 22 responses

Average: 0% 0 responses
Good: 36.4% 8 responses
Excellent: 59.1% 13 responses

8. For the 2012 workshop, we are considering a major them of transboundary (US/Canadian) coordination on oil spill prevention, preparedness and response and in 2013 a focus on managing growth in island communities. Rate your interest in these topics and suggest other topics that you would like included in these and other future workshops in the comment section.

| | Oil spill | s 2012 | Managi 2013 | ng growth | Responses |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------|----------------|------------|-----------|
| Very interested | 29.4% | 5 responses | 70.6% | | 17 |
| | | | respons | es | |
| Somewhat | 63.6% | 7 responses | 36.4% | 4 | 11 |
| interested | | | respons | es | |
| Interested | 50% | 3 responses | 50% | 3 | 6 |
| | | | respons | es | |
| Not interested | 75% | 3 responses | 25% | 1 response | 4 |

15/22 (68.2%) very, somewhat or interested in oil spills. 19/22 (86.4%) very, somewhat or interested in managing growth.

Comments/Suggested Topics:

- SMP for 2012 in addition to anything else.
- It would be great to have some additional topics from a broader perspective
- Every year's workshop needs to have room for multiple topics, although a major theme is ok.
- Very interested in managing growth in also salmon recovery trans boundary trans boundary MPA's
- Where are we with killer whale management in the trans boundary region?
- More interaction with other Northern Straits MRC's. As in, annual workshop sharing projects and accomplishments/ goals of each MRC.
- Managing Growth, I think will be a very difficult subject to address in the limited time of the seminar's day and one half format.
- More on salmon and orca biology and economic issues associated with both.

• At the last Puget Sound - Georgia Basin conference there was an excellent session on monitoring done in the Gulf Islands. Given we share the same species, water, etc. this would be a topic perhaps more/different agencies would be interested in.

9. What was your favorite aspect of the workshop?

- Do I have to pick just one? I actually thought hearing from Captain Ferguson was
 really interesting and a good way for the community to understand what
 relationships to forge now that will facilitate smooth interactions in possible
 future incident response scenarios. Brendan Cowan ran an excellent panel and it
 was great to see local experts interacting with folks on the federal/military side of
 things.
- Networking with participants.
- Updates on what is happening related to our neighbors, Canadians and also all the related info on oil spills, and Orcas was very helpful
- All three topics were great.
- Networking and hearing what other things people were working on. It wasn't too big and overwhelming.
- Updates on what is happening related to our neighbors, Canadians and also all the related info on oil spills, and Orcas was very helpful
- having islands trust present and learning form them, having them hear about our issues
- Tuesday morning
- The depth of quality science behind the information presented.
- Panel discussions Excellent set of speakers Liked NOAA and Canadian participation
- Networking
- Getting to know who the players are and how things work or don't work on a local, state and federal level. it was good to have the Coast Guard Commander come and WDFW, etc.
- the reception
- whale session
- oil spill
- diversity of topics
- Learning about Canadian issues
- oil spill and whale guidelines/research discussions

10. Do you have any suggestions for improving the workshop?

• I have enjoyed this meeting every year I have attended it, for different reasons each time. I think it's an important gathering because it allows for greater

interaction among folks who work on different facets of marine issues and marine management in San Juan County.

- None
- Skip breakout groups. Focus more on presentations
- We might want to change it from a Marine managers Workshop to a San Juan Marine Stewardship Area workshop.
- No.
- more Canadians, more agency folks, more tribes
- get all federal managers there and give incentives to stay for reception and dinner
 that goes for all participants really
- More opportunities for transboundary collaboration and learning.
- It might be fun to come up with a hypothetical marine problem and see how it gets resolved or not resolved on a local, state or federal level. For example how to prevent the armoring of a spawning beach or how to keep a wetland from being filled in on a neighbors property... How to deal with a catastrophic oil spill
- get more managers engaged- mtg. was very heavily MRC/tag. more time for what goals we can accomplish together- less power point presentations talking at the group
- no
- scheduled breaks
- I did not find the small workgroups particularly useful. I would have preferred more time for questions after the talks.

11. What, if any, component of your work in the San Juans do you plan to do differently as a result of the workshop. Please explain.

- N/A
- increased networking
- Get out of the office and spend more time working directly with counterparts.
- perhaps work with P4PS and PSP to do a volunteer project work with IOSA to get a vessel opportunity list and US/Canada MOU for emergency responders
- look at timing of salmon runs perhaps adjust management
- Take a more expansive view of the work I'm involved with at Friends of the San Juans.
- n/a
- no comment
- increased consideration of habitat needs of threatened species
- arranged meetings with non participating agencies after the workshop, but right now nothing.

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