

Snohomish County

Grant No. G0600109

GRANT TITLE: Northwest Straits: MRC Year 6 Administration and Action Project

TASK NO: 4.2 Creosote Log Survey & Removal

☐ ANNUAL REPORT (January 1 – December 31)

☐ WORK PLAN

☐ PROGRESS REPORT No. 1 ☐ No. 2 ☐ No. 3 ☐

☐ FINAL PROGRESS REPORT

☐ PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

☒ SUMMARY REPORT Year 1 ☐ Year 2 ☒

☐ TECHNICAL REPORT

PERIOD COVERED: July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2007

DATE SUBMITTED: June 30, 2007



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## **SUMMARY REPORT OUTLINE**

**Task Title:** 4.2 Creosote Log Survey and Removal

**Project Partners:**

The Northwest Straits Commission  
Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee  
WSU Beach Watchers Snohomish/Skagit Counties  
The Department of Natural Resources  
The United States Navy, Everett  
Snohomish-Camano Nearshore Cooperative

**Project Background:**

Creosote-treated timbers pose a threat to the nearshore environmental and its inhabitants. Most creosote-treated materials come from broken pilings that have fallen from derelict docks and piers or railroad ties from nearby tracks. These materials, whether freshly washed up or buried in the intertidal for decades, are found to be leaching creosote on a continual basis.

The specific NWS benchmarks this project is relevant to are:

- working to reduce the input of contaminants, including toxic substances, to Northwest Straits marine waters
- engaging the public in active stewardship opportunities through community workshops, restoration projects and educational programming

**Project Objectives:**

To protect and restore nearshore habitat, the MRC participated in the Northwest Straits Regional Creosote Log Survey and Removal Project by

- locating creosote logs on shorelines with the help of volunteers
- removal and disposal of those logs

**Project Implementation:**

On September 10, 2005, the MRC, Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) and WSU Beach Watchers held a training workshop for volunteers to learn how to survey for creosote-treated logs along the county shoreline. During the fall and winter, volunteers combed all public beaches, identified creosote logs and logged them with survey sheets and GPS waypoints. DNR downloaded these waypoints, and a team of partners reviewed the data. It quickly became apparent that certain “hot spots” exist along the county shoreline, with Jetty Island having the most number of logs surveyed.

Jetty Island and Kayak Point County Park were designated creosote “hot spots” and prioritized as important removal sites. On September 15, 2006, as part of the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual United Way Day of Caring, volunteers from the U.S. Navy and WSU Beach Watchers staged (located, tagged and positioned) over 600 pieces of creosote-treated timbers for removal at Jetty Island.

On October 10 and 11, 2006, the Department of Natural Resources (enabled by Northwest Straits Commission funding) lifted the 70 tons of creosote-treated logs off of Jetty Island. As a result of a press release developed by Snohomish MRC & NWSC staff, Kiro 7 Eye-Witness News was present to cover the event. A photo of the helicopter removal was also included on the front page of the Everett Herald. The logs were transported to the Roosevelt Regional Landfill for proper disposal.

DNR removed 15.62 creosote lots from Kayak Point County Park.

**Discussion:**

The objectives were met and surpassed. Creosote logs were located along all Snohomish County public shorelines because of strong help from volunteers. The Jetty Island site was prioritized for removal due to the high number of logs. Removal and disposal of the logs was accomplished. The MRC plans to continue working with WSU Beach Watchers and the Department of Natural Resources to continue locating creosote-treated logs and prioritize removal efforts. Additionally, we plan to locate standing creosote-treated piles in the Snohomish river delta/estuary during the summer of 2007 to continue removal efforts.

**Recommendations:**

The initial surveys in 2005 served a strong purpose in identifying “hot spot” accretion areas within Snohomish County. Aside from Jetty Island, Kayak Point County Park, and possibly a few along the Tulalip Reservation, relatively few “hot spot” accretion areas with public access exist in Snohomish County, presumably due to the BNSF railroad bulkhead from Everett to the south limiting log accretion.

Remaining logs will have to be relocated each year as storms often shift them. The U.S. Navy was an excellent partner in this effort and expressed interest in future removal preparation and staging at Jetty Island.

**Resources/References:**

**Attachments:**

Field Survey Data

Jetty Island Clean Up General Final Report

Jetty Island Creosote Debris Removal: Final Report

Kayak Point County Park Creosote Debris Removal: Final Report

Jetty Island Budget

Press release

Survey Data