

Project Title/Task: Year one Pigeon Guillemot summary report

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2022 Pigeon Guillemot Monitoring Project

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Introduction

Pigeon guillemots (*Cepphus columba*) have been used as an indicator species of nearshore ecosystem health in the Salish Sea for many years (Puget Sound Partnership www.psp.wa.gov/vitalsigns/birds.php). This monitoring effort was initiated on Whidbey Island in 2009, expanded to South Puget Sound in 2013, and a pilot project started in Clallam County in 2015. Beginning in 2016, Clallam County Marine Resources Committee (Clallam MRC) adopted this effort as one of its citizen scientist monitoring projects. All of these regional monitoring programs have continued as annual efforts, and in 2021 was expanded to Jefferson County. This regional program, Salish Sea Guillemot Network (<http://www.pigeonguillemot.org/>), is part of the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program's Marine Birds Workgroup.

2022 Effort

In 2022 the recruitment campaign was once again impacted by Covid-19, preventing any in-person promotion and training. Recruitment was posted on the Clallam MRC Facebook page and website. Several hundred people were reached through Facebook and many people engaged in the post. Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS), co-sponsor of the project, also posted the recruitment information on their website. The online training included the history of the program and explanations on the monitoring protocols and field data forms. The training was available at this link: <http://www.pigeonguillemot.org/2022-survey-tool-box.html>. Over 40 volunteers, including 20 brand new volunteers from the MRC, OPAS and local residents led or assisted with the surveys (Table 1). New volunteers were teamed up with experienced volunteers whenever possible and acted as substitutes when others were on vacation.

Volunteer teams began monitoring colonies on the week of June 7th. Six geographical areas were monitored in 2022 including Bachelor Rock, Port Angeles (Crown Park), Dungeness Spit, Port Williams, and Mussel Beach (Figure 1). John Wayne Marina was not monitored in 2022 since birds were not present. Two new sites in 2022 included an additional site in Port Angeles and one further west. Due to the length and complexity of area Port Williams was divided into 9 sites. The last site monitored was performed late September.

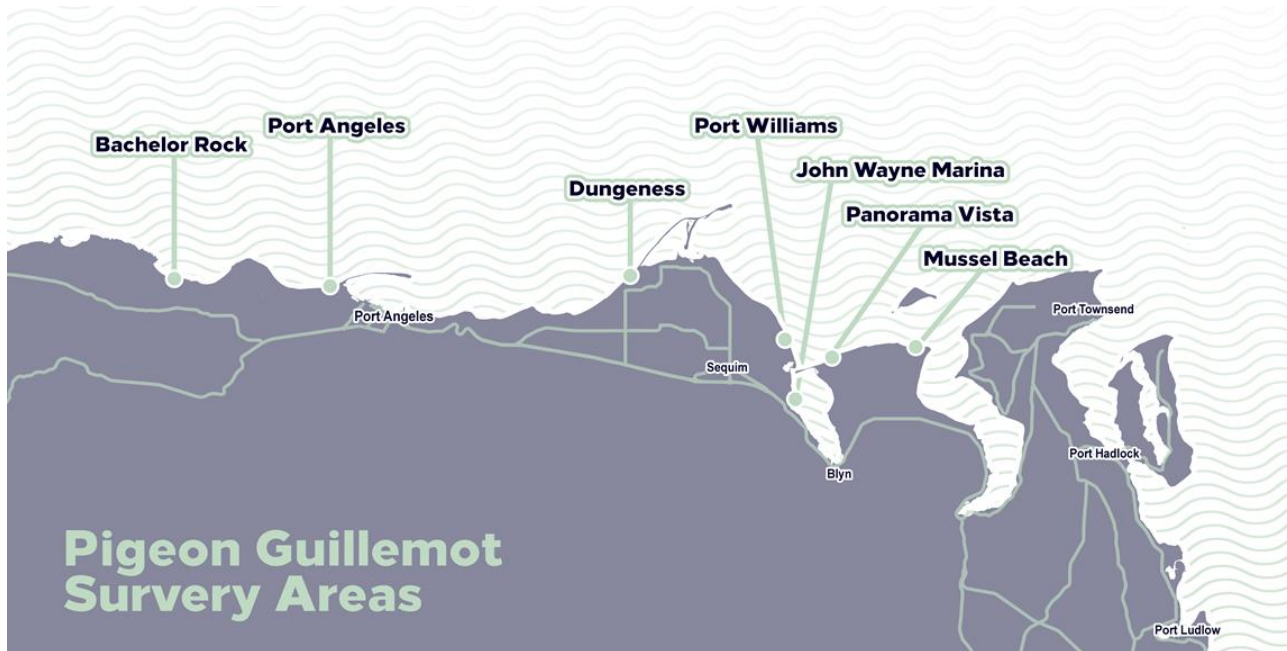


Figure 1. Pigeon guillemot colony monitoring sites for Clallam County in 2022.

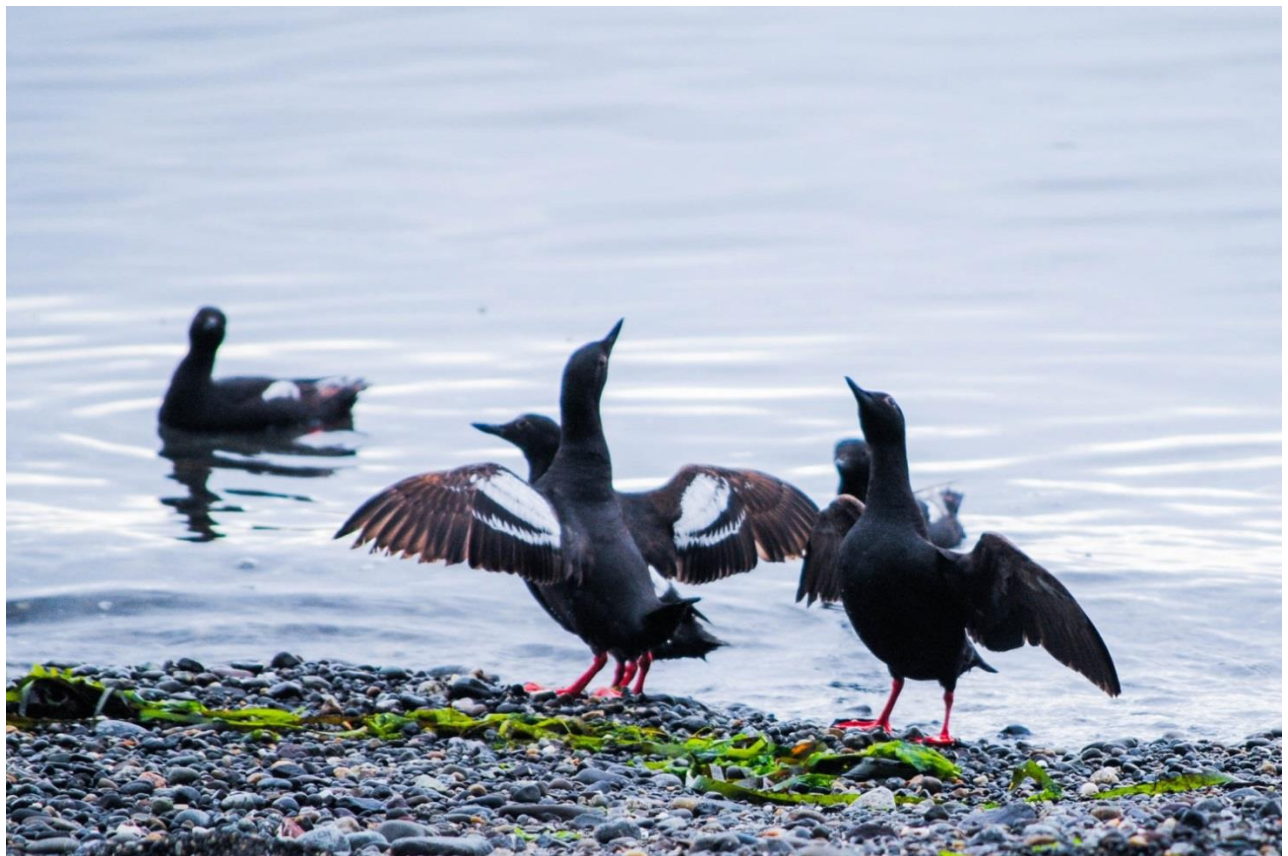


Figure 2. Pigeon guillemots at Port Williams beach.

Table 1. Pigeon Guillemot Volunteers 2022

| Site Name | Primary Monitors | Substitute Monitors |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Mussel Beach | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Panorama Vista | | |
| | | |
| John Wayne Marina | Discontinued for 2022 | |
| | | |
| Port Williams (PW) 0 | | |
| | | |
| PW0.5 | | |
| PW1 | | |
| PW1 | | |
| PW1 | | |
| PW1.5 | | |
| PW2 | | |
| PW2 | | |
| PW2.5 | | |
| PW3 | | |
| PW3 | | |
| PW4 | | |
| PW4 | | |
| PW4.5 | | |
| | | |
| Dungeness Spit | | |
| Dungeness Spit | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Port Angeles | | |
| | | |
| Port Angeles | | |
| | | |
| PA ferry | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Bachelor Rock | | |
| | | |
| Bachelor Rock | | |
| | | |
| Bachelor Rock | | |

Substitutes Port Angeles area: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Substitutes Sequim area: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Substitutes: [REDACTED]

Standardized protocols were followed (Data sheet attached) revised in 2022 to better accommodate population modeling by University of Washington PhD candidate Amanda Warlick and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's new database, Survey123. This regional collaborative effort included not only volunteer monitors in Clallam County, but also Whidbey Island, South Puget Sound and new sites in Jefferson County. Clallam field data sheets are shown in Appendix A. The monitoring datasheets are provided in separate files.

Mary Sue Brancato (MRC volunteer) performed the online data entry into the regional database (Survey123), which will be available once final data entries are completed at the Salish Sea Guillemot Network (<http://www.pigeonguillemot.org/>).

Acknowledgements. We wish to thank all of our dedicated volunteers for their citizen science monitoring efforts in 2022; our co-sponsor, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society; and the continued collaboration of Frances Wood of the Guillemot Research Group. Also to recognize Mary Sue Brancato for the data entry. Supplemental funding from the Northwest Straits Commission helped to make this another successful monitoring year.

Appendix A