

Zostera japonica Workshop

Friday Harbor Laboratories
September 23 – 24, 2010

Goals:

- to convene scientists and managers to discuss and synthesize the best available knowledge on *Zostera japonica*.
- to identify research priorities that will enhance the current knowledge of *Z. japonica* and improve the management of seagrass in the region.



Process

- 1) Topics were assigned to selected participants.
- 2) Data were synthesized and then presented at the workshop.
- 3) Discussion followed to identify
 - a) missed but previously conducted research,
 - b) data gaps and future research priorities.
- 4) Report summarized meeting



Overview Topics

- Taxonomic history of Zj in the Pacific Northwest
 - When it was first found
 - History of scientific names
- Current regulatory status of Zj in WA State
 - State and federal regulations protect seagrass and eelgrass specifically
 - WA state identifies all eelgrass as *Zostera spp.*



Session Topics and Data Gaps

- Potential impact of Zj establishment on ecosystem structure and function
- Community and species level interactions involving Zj
- Monitoring Zj distribution and expansion
- Influence of predicted climate change on Zj distribution
- Non-native status and genetic variation within and among Zj populations



Research Priorities

- Synthesize research literature
- Encourage citizen monitoring
- Investigate the effects Zj has on community dynamics and ecosystem functions
- Assess the economics of Zj
 - Ecosystem services
 - Species management
 - Commercial and recreational fisheries/shellfisheries
- Conduct genetic analyses
 - Confirm Zj's non-native status
 - Predict Zj's response to GCC

