

Protect Zangle Cove -- www.protectzanglecove.org

Attachment H

Email from Bobbie Moody Regarding Pigeon Guillemot Burrows on the Bank in Proximity To the Proposed Commercial Geoduck Farm in Zangle Cove

Subj: Pigeon Guillemots

Date: 1/8/2015 6:32:06 P.M. Pacific Standard Time

From: bbemoody@aol.com

To: katsea@aol.com

Kathy: Here is the info on the birds. Good luck with your efforts! Bobby

In a high bank along Zangle Cove there are several burrows where Pigeon Guillemots nest each year. If you walk from your house, around the end of the cove and past where Sohn's house is and keep going, it is about 300 yards or so along the beach. On the beach, direction in front of the high bank is a HUGE overturned driftwood stump, probably at least 8 feet high and 8 feet in diameter. It can only be reached at a fairly low tide. In the bank there are 5 or 6 burrows. In 2013 two of the burrows had Pigeon Guillemot nests in them. This last summer (2014) three of the burrows were occupied by the guillemots. The birds arrive sometime in the spring, lay their egg in the burrow in May, incubate them for about a month and then feed the babies through August. The parents hang out in the water, not far off shore. They dive for forage fish, generally gunnel, sculpin, perch or cod. They are pretty wary of people on the shore, and other disturbances, waiting until the 'coast is clear' to fly their fish into the burrow to feed the baby. We have seen as many as 12 or 14 adult birds in the water at one time during the summer. By the end of August, or very early in September, they have left the shore for parts unknown; to return to the same nesting site and burrows the next year. These birds are one of the species that the Audubon Society has identified as being adversely affected by climate change over the coming year. It is thought the health of Puget Sound is indicated by the health of these birds; in part because the birds rely on forage fish for their babies. The Nisqually Reach Nature Center is doing an on-going survey of the birds, their nests and feeding habitats. We will be out there again this summer, count the number of birds, the type of food they are carry and the number of active burrows.

Bobbie Moody

Pigeon Guillemot Survey Tame

Nisqually Reach Nature Center Volunteer