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Salish Sea Pigeon Guillemot Breeding Surveys

Terence Lee
Nisqually Reach Nature Center

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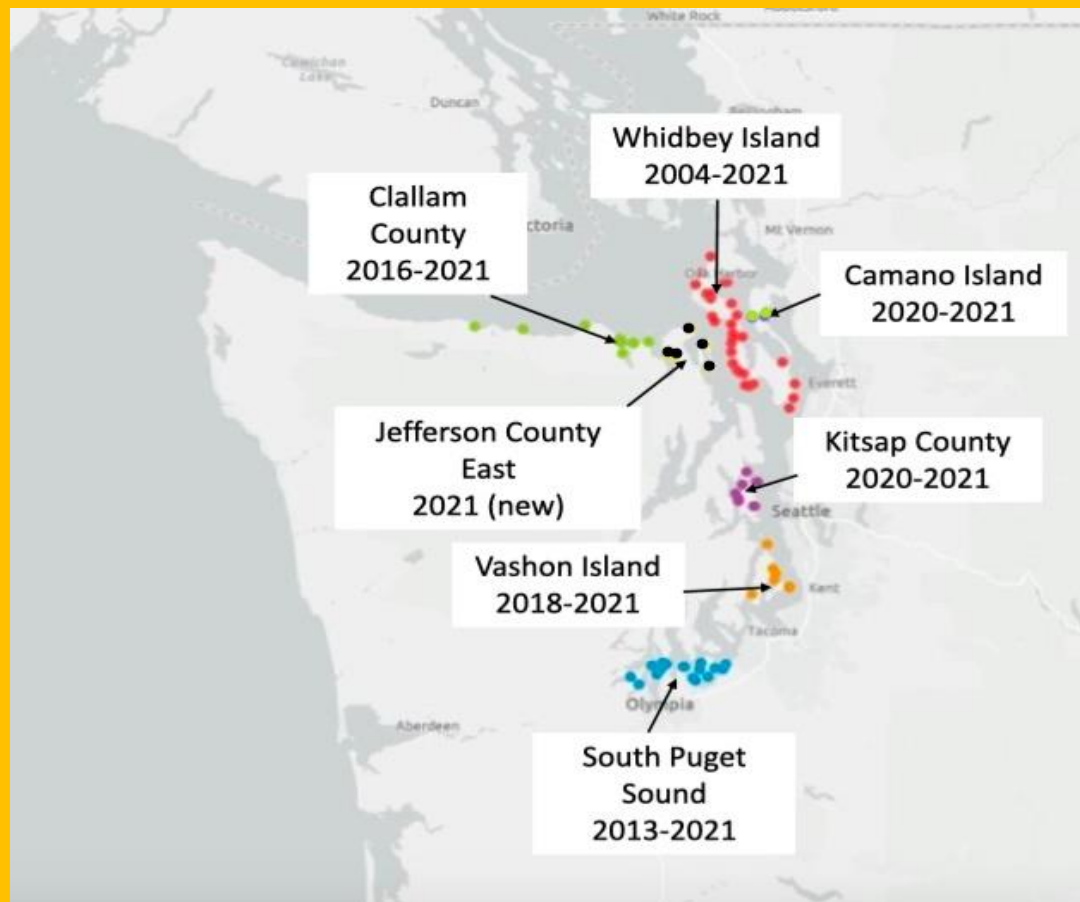
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Salish Sea Pigeon Guillemot Breeding Surveys

Terence Lee, Nisqually Reach Nature Center

Salish Sea Guillemot Network

A community science research program focused on surveying Pigeon Guillemot (locally breeding, burrow-nesting seabirds that are highly dependent on the marine environment) was already well established by the time these birds were designated by the Puget Sound Partnership as an indicator species for the Salish Sea, reflecting overall ecosystem health.



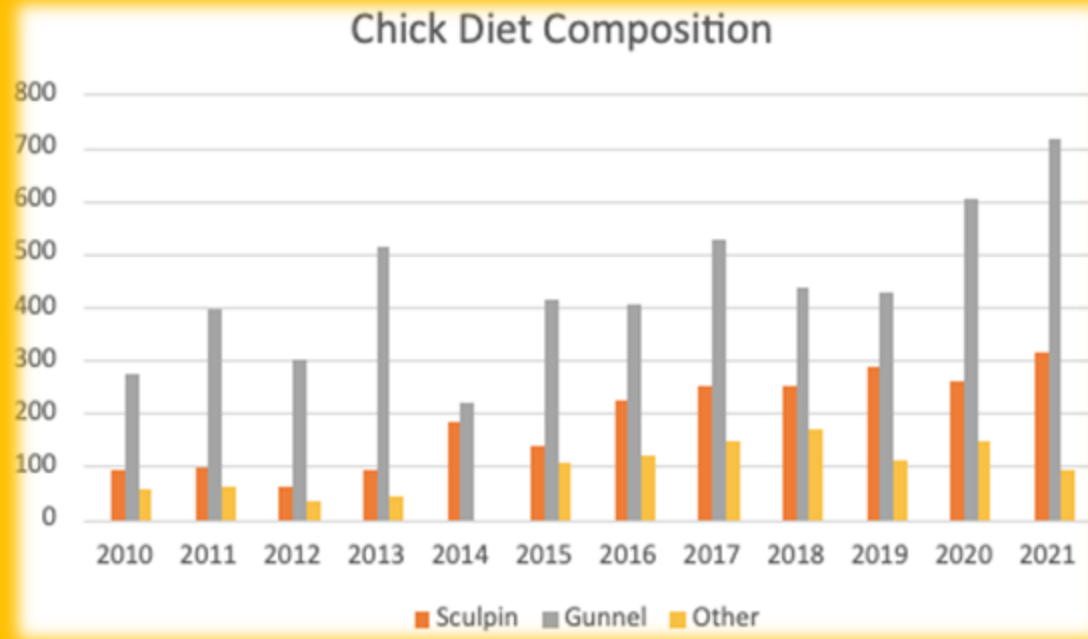
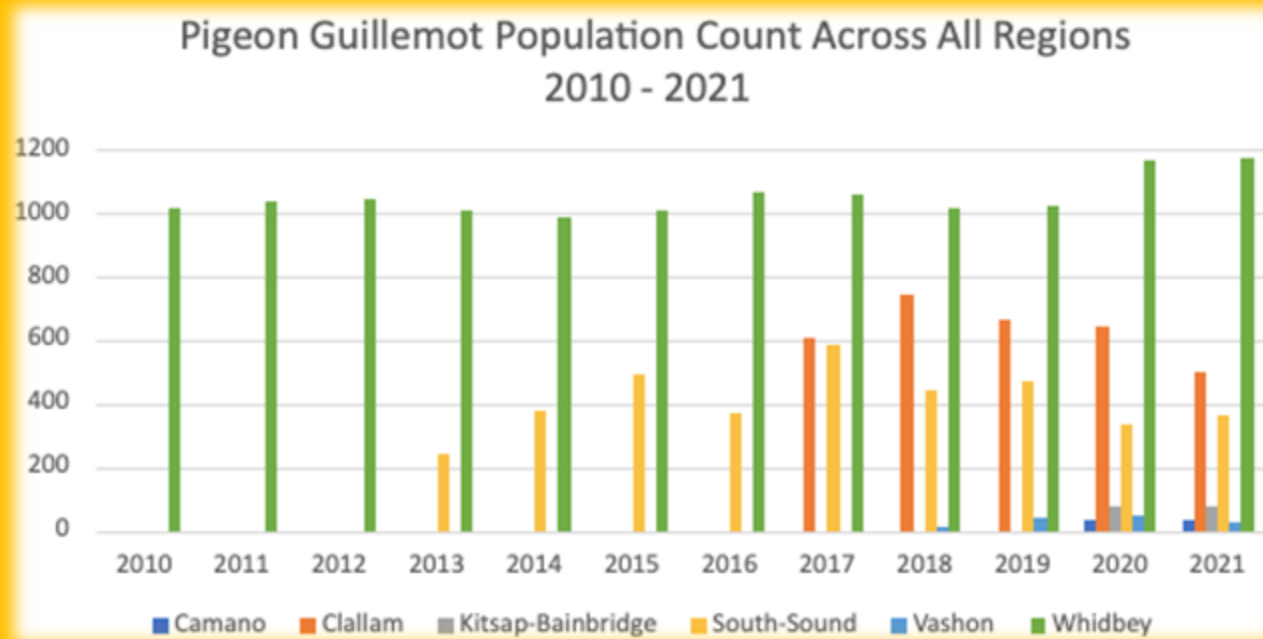
Weekly, one-hour, surveys were conducted at each colony during the breeding season (June-September) to record the following data:

- # of PIGU present
- Burrow visits
- Fish deliveries
- Disturbances

2021 Quick Stats
 Colonies Surveyed: 67
 Surveys Performed: 699
 Volunteer Hours: 3,671



Photo Credit: Govinda Rosling



Summary

By providing data vital for informing statewide population trends, natural resource managers and data modelers can detect significant population changes and refine models based on bird counts and chick diet. Therefore we intend to continue surveying in order to provide better data that supports regional decision-making related to habitat protection and seabird conservation with potential for integration into a holistic assessment of ecosystem health.

Acknowledgments

Salish Sea Guillemot Network community science volunteers for data collection. Nisqually Reach Nature Center staff and volunteers provided technical assistance. Washington Department Fish Wildlife for GIS development and support.

Further information

www.pigeonguillemot.org
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