

COUNTY: Island

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# Island County Marine Resources Committee Outreach: 2020-2021

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## I. Introduction

Outreach is an important aspect of the work of the Island County Marine Resources Committee (MRC), including internal communications to Island County leadership as well as external outreach to the local community. Outreach is an integral component of each MRC project – whether a highly visible restoration project or behind-the-scenes data analysis. By helping the community understand what the MRC does and why, the MRC hopes to increase public interest in learning about and caring for the local marine environment.

One major focus of the MRC's outreach this year involved the extensive work to conduct a needs assessment. This effort involved many volunteer hours from MRC members to strategize, conduct interviews, analyze data, and develop a report describing the process and findings. The needs assessment overview and supporting materials can be found on the [2021 Needs Assessment page](#) on the MRC website.

In addition to the needs assessment, the MRC engaged in several outreach opportunities, including participating in virtual and in-person events, writing educational articles, and developing a Storymap. These and other activities and materials that the MRC worked on during the 2020-2021 grant year are described in the following section.

## II. Activities and Materials

### A. Presentations

#### **MYCOAST APP TRAINING, JANUARY 2021**

MRC Chair, Kelly Zupich, and MRC staff, Anna Toledo held a training on how to use the MyCoast app for Sound Water Stewards and MRC members. The training covered the reporting categories on the app and led participants through a live demonstration of how to use the app. The training was recorded and is available [online](#).

#### **PRESENTATION TO BOARD OF ISLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, FEBRUARY 2021**

MRC Chair, Kelly Zupich, and MRC staff, Anna Toledo, provided an update to the Board of Island County Commissioners (BICC). The update highlighted recent accomplishments and plans for the upcoming year.

#### **PRESENTATION TO LEADERSHIP WHIDBEY, MARCH 2021**

MRC staff, Anna Toledo, provided a presentation to a class of students participating in Leadership Whidbey, an intensive educational program designed to develop and support local leadership. The presentation covered information about Whidbey as a watershed, the connection between the upland

and the nearshore, and ways to get involved in natural resource conservation and restoration, including through the MRC.

#### **PRESENTATION AT ISLAND COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES SYMPOSIUM, APRIL 2021**

MRC staff, Anna Toledo, presented about shoreline restoration and the MRC at the Island County Natural Resources Symposium. The goal of the Symposium was to introduce community members to projects and programs within Island County Department of Natural Resources.

#### **PRESENTATION TO SOUND WATER STEWARDS CLASS OF 2021, MAY 2021**

MRC staff, Anna Toledo and Ann Prusha, provided a lecture to 2021 Sound Waters Stewards class of 2021, an intensive volunteer stewardship training program, about the MRC and its Forage Fish monitoring program and Shore Friendly. The goal of this presentation was to educate volunteers about forage fish and monitoring efforts, as well as the MRC and potential volunteer opportunities.

#### **PRESENTATION TO BOARD OF ISLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, SEPTEMBER 2021**

MRC staff, Ann Prusha, presented the Needs Assessment Overview document to the BICC to highlight the work that was done by the MRC and major patterns regarding shoreline recovery found in the document.

## **B. Events and Meetings**

#### **ORCA RECOVERY DAY, OCTOBER 2020**

The MRC partnered with Whidbey Island Conservation District, Northwest Straits Foundation, and several additional partners on events to recognize Orca Recovery Day, October 17, 2020. Events included an orca forum, trivia night, art contest, and eco-challenge.

Island County Commissioner Janet St. Clair requested that the MRC draft a proclamation declaring October 17, 2020 Orca Recovery Day in Island County. The Board of Island County Commissioners passed the proclamation.

#### **NEARSHORE RESTORATION SITE VISITS WITH CONGRESSMAN LARSEN, OCTOBER 2020**

The MRC hosted a visit with Congressman Rick Larsen to two nearshore restoration sites, in partnership with the Northwest Straits Foundation and Shore Friendly program. The MRC shared two handouts about the restoration sites, which are attached in Appendix A.

At Seahorse Siesta, MRC Chair, Kelly Zupich, shared about the work of the MRC. Community members and Lisa Kaufman from the Northwest Straits Foundation shared about the project identification, restoration goals, and community involvement. The project, which went into construction shortly after the site visit, involved the removal of a grounded barge and bulkhead from the toe of a feeder bluff.

At Sunlight Shores, Anna Toledo shared about the MRC's role in outreach and monitoring at restoration sites, as well as the connection with the Shore Friendly program. Lucas Hart shared about the Northwest Straits Commission and the impact of federal support. Lori Clark, Island Local Integrating Organization Coordinator, shared about the value of leveraging partnerships. Lisa Kaufman explained the project details. Community members shared about the habitat and recreational benefits of removing shoreline armor.



*Left: Kelly Zupich shares about the accomplishments of the MRC with Congressman Larsen at the Seahorse Siesta restoration site. Credit: Anna Toledo. Right: Congressman Larsen visits the Sunlight Shores restoration site. Credit: Lance Porter.*

### **SOUND WATERS UNIVERSITY, FEBRUARY 2021**

The MRC participated with a virtual display at Sound Waters University, which was held in a virtual format for 2021. The virtual display included information about the MRC’s work and ways to get involved. A copy of the display is attached in Appendix B.

### **JAN HOLMES ISLAND COUNTY COASTAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD, FEBRUARY 2021**

The MRC, in partnership with Sound Water Stewards and Washington State University Extension – Island County, honored volunteer Karis Barnes as the 2021 Jan Holmes Island County Coastal Volunteer of the Year. The award was presented at Sound Waters University, and recognized Karis’ exceptional volunteer work as a Beach Naturalist Intern at Deception Pass State Park, providing education about tide pool ecosystems and appropriate viewing practices throughout summer 2020.



*2021 Island County Coastal Volunteer of the Year, Karis Barnes.*

### **SHORE FRIENDLY WORKSHOPS, FEBRUARY-MARCH 2021**

The MRC participated with the Northwest Straits Foundation in two virtual Shore Friendly workshops. The first workshop, held on February 24<sup>th</sup>, was attended by shoreline homeowners throughout the Northwest Straits region. The second workshop, held on March 17<sup>th</sup>, was geared towards shoreline homeowners in Island County. MRC staff, Anna Toledo, provided information about the MRC and its work in shoreline restoration as well as monitoring and outreach efforts.

### **CATCH MORE CRAB OUTREACH, JULY 2021**

The MRC partnered with Sound Water Stewards to participate in Catch More Crab outreach. On the opening day of the crabbing season (July 1, 2021), volunteers at Camano Island State Park, Cornet Bay Boat Launch, Langley Marina, and Oak Harbor Marina distributed crabber materials and rot cord. Outreach materials were also provided to hardware stores and other community locations.



*Left: Julie Wage, a Sound Water Steward, models the crab hat while conducting crabber outreach. Credit: Scott Chase. Right: 2021 Crabber Opening Day. Credit: Julie Wage*

### **PARTICIPATION IN PARTNER MEETINGS, ONGOING**

The MRC maintains a connection with relevant local and regional work through integration with partner organizations. MRC members provide representation on the Island Local Integrating Organization and Island County Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee. Several Sound Water Stewards sit on the MRC and help foster the connection between the two organizations. MRC staff and members also participate in the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program (PSEMP) nearshore workgroup. An MRC member participated in the Island County Shoreline Master Plan Technical Advisory Committee.

### **WEBSITE UPDATES, ONGOING**

The MRC website is regularly updated with information on upcoming meetings and events, as well as project reports and past meeting minutes.

### **MRC MONTHLY MEETINGS, ONGOING**

The MRC meets monthly, and frequently includes educational presentations as part of those meetings, which the public is invited to and encouraged to attend. Due to COVID-19 precautions, the MRC has been conducting meetings virtually over Zoom. Presentation topics in the 2020-2021 grant year included: Community Litter Cleanup Program, Oak Harbor Marina restoration feasibility, Northwest Straits Initiative communications plan, FEMA Door 2 Decision, Port of Coupeville projects, Shoreline Master Program, sea star research, microplastics monitoring, eelgrass storymap, noxious weeds, Needs Assessment, voluntary no-anchor zones, Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST), and Snohomish Conservation District programs.



MRC meeting over Zoom.

## C. Media and Resources

### NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The MRC conducted a needs assessment in winter 2021 to aid strategic planning for the coming 3-5 years. The goal was to identify pressing and emerging marine resource issues in Island County and to learn what MRC roles and projects are most valued. The MRC conducted interviews with community partners and County leadership to understand the needs of the community in relation to marine resources, and opportunities for the MRC to engage with local priorities and partnerships.

The [Needs Assessment Overview](#) and supporting materials are available on the [needs assessment page](#) on the MRC website.

### EELGRASS STORYMAP

The MRC developed and published a [Storymap on the eelgrass monitoring project](#). This Storymap covers what eelgrass is and its role in our ecosystem, the research that a community science team conducted, the Island County Marine Resources Committee, and ways that viewers can help protect this critical habitat. It features stunning photography and relatable science in an immersive platform. The Storymap was developed by Island County Natural Resources staff member, Ann Prusha, with input from the eelgrass monitoring team and the MRC.

After interacting with the Storymap, viewers were encouraged to fill out a learning assessment for a chance to win a copy of Sound Water Steward's *Getting to the Water's Edge on Whidbey & Camano Islands*. Twenty-two responses were received through the learning assessment. The assessment showed that the Storymap was an effective educational tool, and increased respondents' understanding of eelgrass and its role in the ecosystem.

**“DISCOVER OUR ISLAND SHORES” AT FILM FESTIVAL, MAY 2021**

The film “Discover Our Island Shores,” developed for Island County MRC was shown at the 2021 Western Division of the American Fisheries Society Virtual Annual Meeting Aquatic Film Festival. The film continues to be available on the [MRC website](#) to allow local teachers and students to access this resource virtually.

**“MAKE A DIFFERENCE” ARTICLES, ONGOING**

The MRC partnered with Whidbey Island Conservation District, Sound Water Stewards, and WSU Extension Island County Master Gardeners Program, to submit a monthly article to the local Whidbey Weekly newspaper. The MRC submitted three articles, each inspiring readers to take voluntary actions to protect, conserve, and learn about local natural resources. The articles are attached in Appendix C.

**ISLAND COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTERS, ONGOING**

The MRC has provided regular updates, events, and announcements in the Island County Natural Resources e-newsletter. The newsletter is generally sent out monthly (newsletters were not sent in July or September 2021), and additional news blasts are sent to promote specific events, such as workshops or volunteer opportunities. As of September 2021, the e-newsletter list has 1,519 subscribers. The newsletters are attached in Appendix D.

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

The MRC posts news and announcements on social media through the Island County Environmental Health/Department of Natural Resources [Facebook page](#). The MRC provided regular topics for posting, including photos and updates about monitoring activities and announcements about events and activities hosted by the MRC and partners.

**III. Appendices**

- A. Seahorse Siesta and Sunlight Shores Handouts**
- B. Virtual Display for Sound Waters University**
- C. Make a Difference Articles**
- D. Island County Natural Resources Newsletters**

# SEAHORSE SIESTA SHORELINE RESTORATION



## FAST FACTS

- Work to begin October 2020
- Remove barge and bulkhead at base of feeder bluff
- Revegetate slope with native vegetation
- Improve habitat for forage fish and juvenile salmon
- Restore sediment transport processes
- Provide safe access for community

## FUNDING

### Feasibility and Design:

- EPA through National Estuary Program
- Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program

### Construction and Vegetation:

- US Fish and Wildlife Service - Puget Sound Coastal Program
- Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund
- Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program
- Vincent J. Coates Foundation

### Monitoring:

- EPA through National Estuary Program
- Island County Marine Resources Committee
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

## THE ORCA CONNECTION

Forage fish, such as surf smelt and Pacific sand lance, spawn on beaches like the one covered by the barge and bulkhead at Seahorse Siesta.

These small fish are an essential link in the marine food web, supporting larger predators, such as salmon and seabirds, all the way up to orcas. Restoring beaches like this one provide habitat for these important species.

Island County Marine Resources Committee volunteers monitor this beach for forage fish spawning, and will continue to monitor after the beach has been restored.



## PARTNERS

- Northwest Straits Foundation
- Seahorse Siesta Community
- Island County Marine Resources Committee
- Sound Water Stewards



[WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG](http://WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG)  
[WWW.NWSTRAITSFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.NWSTRAITSFOUNDATION.ORG)



# SUNLIGHT SHORES SHORELINE RESTORATION



Photo: Coastal Geologic Services



## FAST FACTS

- Completed in 2018
- Removed 350 feet of hard shoreline armoring, including toxic creosote-treated wood
- Restored .25 acres of riparian habitat
- Planted native vegetation
- Improved habitat to support insects critical to the diet of juvenile salmonids
- Improved natural aesthetics and beach access

## SHORE FRIENDLY

Shoreline homeowners want to protect their properties while also protecting the fish, wildlife, and shoreline habitats of the communities they love. Shore Friendly actions, such as removing armor and planting native vegetation, allow homeowners to preserve or restore beaches to more natural conditions to support the nearshore ecosystem.

Residents at Sunlight Shores are now able to enjoy the environmental, recreational and aesthetic benefits of a Shore Friendly beach.



## FUNDING

Design and Permitting:

- EPA through National Estuary Program

Construction and Vegetation:

- Salmon Recovery Funding Board
- Honda Marine Science Foundation

- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Shell

Monitoring:

- Honda Marine Science Foundation
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Island County Marine Resources Committee

## PARTNERS

- Northwest Straits Foundation
- Sunlight Shores Country Club
- Island County Marine Resources Committee
- Sound Water Stewards



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EXHIBITORS

### The Island County Marine Resources Committee (MRC)

The Island County Marine Resources Committee (MRC) is an advisory body to county government, made up of local residents from diverse backgrounds, with the goal to protect and restore the marine resources of Island County through monitoring, restoration, and outreach. Our projects range from on-the-ground monitoring to community workshops to native vegetation planting events and beyond.

**Advisory**  
Recent work includes presentations to the Island County Commissioners about MRC projects, and hosting visits to restoration sites for elected officials. These events provide the opportunity for elected officials to see how funding and volunteer efforts work together to create positive results for the environment and local community.

**Monitoring**  
We monitor local beaches for the presence of forage fish eggs. Forage fish are a key link in the marine food web supporting larger species, such as salmon, seabirds, and orcas. We also monitor bull kelp beds to observe changes throughout the growing season, and compare results from year to year. Bull kelp forests serve as important habitat as well as a food source for a wide variety of marine species.

**Restoration**  
Our nearshore restoration work includes projects with local partners, such as the Northern Straits Foundation and Washington State Parks, to improve shoreline habitat for fish, wildlife, and people. Examples include removal of a creosote bulkhead at Coxnet Bay, and shoreline armor removal at Sunlight Shores.

**Outreach**  
Outreach is key to all of our work, helping connect local residents with the marine environment. We host workshops and educational opportunities. We collaborate with schools to engage local students in learning and caring for our marine habitats and animals. We encourage folks walking along the beach to report creosote or document king tides through the MRC Coast app.

**Stay informed! You can stay apprised of our work in many ways:**

- Visit our website: Learn about the marine habitats and organisms around our island waters, and the work we're doing to protect them at [www.islandcountymrc.org](http://www.islandcountymrc.org).
- Attend a meeting: We meet on the first Tuesday of every month from 3-5pm. We currently meet virtually. You can find our meeting agendas on our [website](#). Our meetings are open to the public, and may include presentations and discussions on topics of local or regional importance, and reports on ongoing MRC work.
- Sign up for the Island County Department of Natural Resources monthly e-newsletter: Enter your email address at [this link](#), then select Ecosystem Recovery under Natural Resources. Stay informed on our work, upcoming meetings and events, and volunteer opportunities.

**How we've been adapting to COVID-19**  
2020 was a unique year for everyone as we navigated changes in response to COVID-19 precautions. To respond to these needs, we made several adaptations, including:

- Switching to virtual meetings.
- Implementing COVID-19 safety precautions for field work.
- Hosting art and essay contests to engage students as they adapted to remote learning.
- Placing the educational film, "Discover Our Island Shores" online, to be available for local students.
- Contactless pickup for educational materials for recreational crabbers.

Despite these challenges, our members and volunteers have remained dedicated to protecting and restoring our marine resources. This year, our volunteers reported 1,892 hours of volunteer work! Our projects are dependent on this local engagement - thank you for being involved!<



ISLAND COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE

[islandcountymrc.org](http://islandcountymrc.org)

**Contact: Anna Toledo**  
Watershed Planner  
[a.toledo@islandcountymrc.org](mailto:a.toledo@islandcountymrc.org)  
360-678-2349





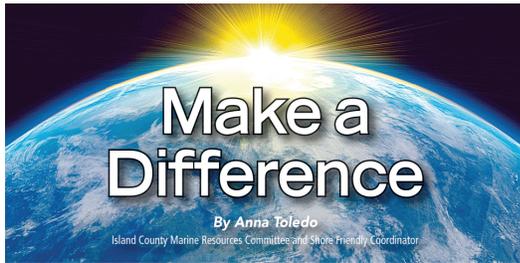




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[www.soundwaterstewards.org](http://www.soundwaterstewards.org)  
360-678-4401

REGISTER HERE



# Make a Difference

By Anna Toledo

Island County Marine Resources Committee and Shore Friendly Coordinator

## MAKING OUR SHORELINES FRIENDLY FOR FISH AND PEOPLE

A walk along the shoreline is one of the activities that has remained a constant this year. Whether you are drawn by the salty breeze or expansive views or the chance to catch a glimpse of a whale, there is peace and adventure to be found along our Island County shores. There are many local organizations working to preserve our beautiful shorelines and many ways for you to help those efforts.

### Little fish with a big purpose

The Island County Marine Resources Committee (MRC) is an advisory board to county government, made up of local volunteers, with the goal to protect and restore local marine resources through monitoring, restoration, and outreach. One of the MRC's activities is to monitor beaches around Island County to understand when and where forage fish lay their eggs (or spawn) and how they use restored beaches.

Around our Island County shorelines, small fish known as forage fish utilize our beaches and nearshore habitats. Forage fish represent a critical link in the marine food web, supporting larger species, such as seabirds, seals and salmon, which in turn support our iconic orca population. When we can improve habitat for forage fish, we improve conditions for the many marine creatures that make our shorelines so inviting.

Two species of forage fish – surf smelt and Pacific sand lance – lay their eggs on our sand and gravel beaches. This spawning behavior relies on natural shoreline habitat. The less altered a shoreline is, the more likely it is to support these important fish.

For many years, shoreline armoring, such as bulkheads and seawalls, were installed around Puget Sound to protect shoreline properties from erosion. Over the recent decades, we have learned more about the impact these structures can have on the marine environment, including that they are not always the most effective erosion protection method, and that they cover up important habitat which supports the very marine life that draws us to the shoreline.

### Shoreline restoration

The MRC also works to identify and support nearshore restoration projects. The MRC is currently partnering with the Northwest Straits Foundation and local community members to remove shoreline armoring at Seahorse Siesta, a private community on south Whidbey. The project involves the removal of an old grounded barge and concrete bulkhead that jut out into the intertidal habitat.

The armoring sits at the bottom of a feeder bluff. Feeder bluffs are coastal bluffs whose natural erosion contributes sediment to the shoreline that "feeds," or builds up, our beaches. Removing armoring at the bottom of this feeder bluff will restore the natural sediment movement along the shoreline. It will also



This restored shoreline at the Sunlight Shores community provides improved habitat, natural beauty, and shoreline accessibility. Photo by Anna Toledo

uncover habitat for those small, but important, forage fish in which to lay their eggs.

### How to make a difference along the shoreline

Whether you live along the shoreline, on a farm, or in the woods, there are actions you can take to protect our beaches. The activities we do on land impact the waters around Island County. Read on to learn about actions you can take to support healthy shorelines.

#### Manage water runoff

You've seen it after a rain storm – water rushing down streets and into storm drains or ditches. This stormwater can pick up pollutants on its journey, which may end up flowing onto our shorelines and into the waters of Puget Sound.

While you may not live near the shoreline, runoff from your property may make its way to the shore and into the ocean. There are actions you can take to lower pollutants that end up in the water as well as decrease runoff. Here are a few to get you started:

Maintain your car. Fixing car leaks not only keeps your car running well, but also keeps excess fluids from dripping on the road, which contributes pollutants to stormwater runoff.

Install a rain garden. Rain gardens add natural beauty to your property and treat polluted runoff at the same time. Maximize your rain garden's utility by directing water from impervious surfaces (e.g. your roof or driveway) into the rain garden.

Minimize impervious surfaces. Your driveway, roof, deck, and patio are all potential areas where stormwater could be contributing to runoff. You can minimize this potential by utilizing pervious materials, installing a green roof, or converting a paved patio to one with native vegetation.

Whidbey Island Conservation District, as well as Washington State University Extension – Island County, have great resources for implementing stormwater management techniques at your property and in your daily activities.

#### Make your beach Shore Friendly

If you live along the shoreline, there are actions you can take to preserve or restore natural habitat while also protecting your property. Now through April 2021, shoreline landowners are invited to apply for mini-grants through the Island County Shore Friendly program for actions that remove or prevent shoreline armoring.

Eligible activities include shoreline armor removal, soft shore protection, native vegetation planting, drainage improvements, and moving a house or septic system, when these actions are associated with either the removal or prevention of shoreline armoring. Mini-grant amounts range from \$500-\$5,000, depending on the eligible activity, and can be used for initial consultation, project design, permitting costs, or project implementation.

Grant funding is provided by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program, and administered through Island County. For more information, visit: [www.islandcountywa.gov/Health/DNR/Shore-Friendly/Pages/Home.aspx](http://www.islandcountywa.gov/Health/DNR/Shore-Friendly/Pages/Home.aspx) or contact Anna Toledo at [a.toledo@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:a.toledo@islandcountywa.gov) or 360-678-2349.

To learn more about the Island County Marine Resources Committee, visit [www.islandcountymrc.org](http://www.islandcountymrc.org).

Make a Difference Column is coordinated by Whidbey Island Conservation District. View current and past articles at [whidbeycd.org/make-a-difference-column](http://whidbeycd.org/make-a-difference-column).

Home for the Holidays

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THE SHORTEST DISTANCE TO FAR AWAY

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Our annual **Empty Soup Bowl Night** is via Zoom (meeting ID 882 451 3254) on Friday, November 20 from 6 to 7 p.m.

**Details at [www.GoodCheer.org](http://www.GoodCheer.org)**

Email your favorite soup recipe with produce from local farmstands and markets to [carol@goodcheer.org](mailto:carol@goodcheer.org) so that we can share it with others.

Langley Good Cheer Thrift Store is open Wednesdays and Saturdays Noon to 5 p.m.  
Clinton Good Cheer Thrift Store is open Tuesdays and Fridays Noon to 5 p.m.

# Think of it as essential.

## Get a flu vaccine.

[KnockOutFlu.org](http://KnockOutFlu.org)

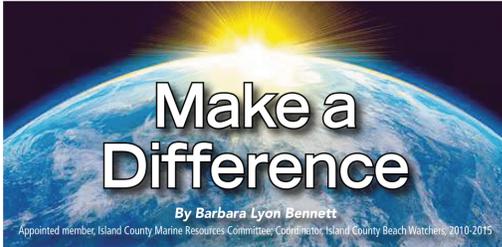
ISLAND COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

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Thank you for reading! Please recycle the Whidbey Weekly when you are finished with it.





By Barbara Lyon Bennett  
Appointed member, Island County Marine Resources Committee; Coordinator, Island County Beach Watchers, 2010-2015

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY SHARING ISLAND COUNTY'S SHORELINE WONDERS**

Do you love the beauty of Island County? Are you charmed by the ebb and flow of the tides, the seasonal visits of migrating birds, the return of mature salmon after growing strong in the ocean and the drama of orcas passing close to shore?

If these natural surroundings lift your spirits and draw your curiosity, you already have gifts of great value to share with others, and by sharing these gifts you can make a difference in the stewardship of our islands and in the lives of people who live here and visit here.

A sense of wonder is one of your gifts and it's not just for children. I'll bet you can remember (no matter how old you were when it happened) the first time you saw a killer whale swim by, or you dug up a clam and took it home for a delicious meal, or even the first time you watched barnacles wave their feathery "legs" to catch plankton for their dinner. Your delight and wonder in these everyday things on our islands can invite grandchildren, neighbors, friends, even strangers to have WOW! moments they will savor for a lifetime and you will fuel their interest in our wonder-filled natural world on display here in Island County.

Don't be shy about your enthusiasm – it's contagious!

Your spirit of adventure and exploration is another gift you can share. There are beaches to walk, trails to follow, bays to explore by boat or kayak, whale-watching outings – the list is almost endless. In addition, thanks to the Island County Marine Resources Committee, the Whidbey Camano Land Trust and a number of other organizations, you will find informative signs and displays throughout the county to help you understand and share details about many locations. You will find exploring is fun and informative and that one layer of discovery leads to more and deeper exploration.

Explore boldly and invite others to join you!

Your willingness to share what you know is another gift. It's helpful to keep in mind we are all learners on a journey and an honest "I don't know the answer" is absolutely the right response when it's true. A good question can lead to great fun learning together and is an ideal way to push yourself and your friends to learn even more.

Other questions about our shorelines may seem basic. I'll bet you can remember being asked questions that made it clear the questioner knew little about the sea and the shore. These questions open a great opportunity to share correct information and encourage more questions and more learning. Strive to be a "Guide on the Side" who encourages and enjoys curiosity and discovery.

Assemble an Adventure Basket. Now is the time to prepare to share the shoreline with seasonal residents, tourists, children, grandchildren, and friends and invite them to join you in the adventure. To pave the way as you follow your own interests, I recommend you create a collection of information and supplies that will make it easy for you (and your friends and visitors) to head out the door for an adventure. My adventure collection includes maps, brochures from local museums and displays, books, sea-life identification cards, information about parking and passes, a favorite shade/rain hat, doggie bags and more. Yours will be unique to you.



Barbara's adventure basket.

In my home, I have a beautiful basket brimming with these materials. It nudges me to be creative about my personal adventures and is very helpful for my visitors looking for their own adventures.

**Barbara's adventure basket**

Here's my list of essential information and books:

- Sea-life identification cards (available at the Langley Whale Center)
- Tide log for the current year (available at hardware stores or the Moonraker)
- *Hiking Close to Home* (available at bookstores in Island County)
- *Getting to the Water's Edge* (available at bookstores in Island County or through Sound Water Stewards' website)
- *Exploring Camano Island* (Available at hardware and gift stores on Camano)
- Washington State Parks information (Deception Pass and Fort Casey Park offices)
- Washington State Birding Trails (Available from Audubon Washington)
- *Sibley Field Guide to Birds of North America* (Available at bookstores and on the web)

**And destination brochures:**

- Island County Historical Museum, Coupeville
- Coupeville Wharf Display, Downtown Coupeville
- Langley Whale Center, Langley

**And websites to search:**

- Whidbey Camano Land Trust: wclt.org
- Sound Water Stewards of Island County: soundwaterstewards.org
- Whidbey Audubon Society: whidbeyaudubonsociety.org
- Island County Marine Resources Committee: islandcountymrc.org
- Washington Sea Grant Shoreline Ambassador Program: wsg.washington.edu/shoreline-ambassador-program

When you are ready to dive deeper in your exploration and learning, consider becoming a member of Sound Water Stewards (applications for the 2021 training waitlist are now open), Whidbey Audubon, or another local organization such as those listed above.

When you expand the circle and deepen the knowledge of people who find joy in Island County's shorelines, you support good stewardship of our wonderful natural surroundings.

I encourage you to delight in WOW! moments, explore boldly, learn eagerly, share your knowledge generously and kindly. Then, repeat the cycle again...and again...and again...and again...

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Go online today to purchase a 2021 license for your furry canine friend today!

Should your pet become lost, current licenses can be your pet's ticket back home where they belong!

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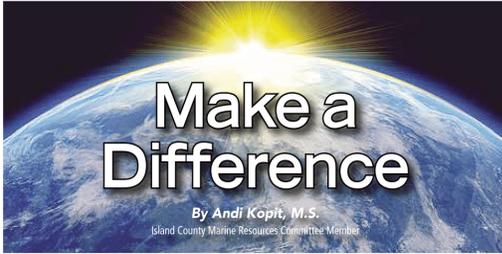
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**THE WHOLE FAMILY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON OUR SHORELINES**

Throughout the pandemic one thought has continually occurred to me, "I am so lucky to be on this island." I have taken full advantage of the shoreline and natural spaces we have access to as Whidbey Islanders and it has kept me sane through this trying time. It is clear I was not alone in feeling this way because the evidence of many, many people enjoying these beautiful places is there: trash. The evidence we humans leave behind. The good news is we can take action and maybe learn a thing or two in the process.

One type of human evidence is particularly persistent in the environment. It is found in many things, from straws and candy wrappers to the clothes we wear. Can you guess what it is?

That's right! Plastics. Scientists are learning more and more everyday about what these plastics do in the environment and how plastics affect living things. The plastics I notice when walking on the beach are large pieces of everyday plastic, but a lot of plastics that end up in the ocean are teeny, tiny pieces called micro-plastics. The smaller and smaller the plastic pieces become, the more living organisms can eat them. Those big pieces of everyday plastic we see on our beautiful beaches will be tossed around in the waves and broken into smaller and smaller pieces until they, too, are micro-plastics. Unless we take action and do something about it!

First, you can work at reducing the plastic you and your family use every day. Using a reusable water bottle, wearing clothes made of natural fibers, and replacing single use plastic items with reusable ones are all great places to start. Next, you and your family can head out to those beautiful beaches and pretty parks on our incredible island and conduct some rad research! We here at the Island County Marine Resources

Committee count on community science to monitor our local beaches. Here is a trash clean-up project you can do with your family to help us learn about the trash that's ending up on our shores:

**Step 1:** Visit the Island County Marine Resources Committee website at www.islandcountymrc.org to download the Trash Clean-Up Graph PDF to fill out.

**Step 2:** Collect the trash you find on the beach. Remember to keep yourself safe by following current COVID-19 protocols and do not pick up anything that looks dangerous, like sharp items or needles. If you find a large piece of debris or creosote-treated wood, you can report it to officials using the MyCoast app. Find more info and download the app at mycoast.org/wa.

**Step 3:** Sort your trash into plastics (including fishing line, Styrofoam, and nylon rope), metal (such as aluminum cans), paper (cardboard, beverage cups), and other. Count how many pieces you have in each category and record your data on the Trash Clean-Up Graph. If you can, take a picture of the trash you've collected.

**Step 4:** Properly throw away or recycle the trash and admire the clean beach you are leaving behind!

**Step 5:** Share your graphed results and trash pictures with us on Facebook (be sure to tag @ICEHDNR) or through email (a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov) and help us collect information about trash on our beaches so we can all keep working to make a difference!

If you would like to learn more about the Island County Marine Resources Committee and what we do, go to www.islandcountymrc.org or attend one of our monthly meetings! If we all take action and do our part to take care of our beautiful islands, we can make a difference for the community, wildlife, and ourselves.



Plastics on the beach (Photo Courtesy of Northwest Straits Commission)

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# Island County

Serving the communities of Camano & Whidbey Islands

## October 2020 Natural Resources Newsletter

*Island County, Washington sent this bulletin at 10/08/2020 01:23 PM PDT*

Having trouble reading this email? [View it in your browser](#)



# Natural Resources Newsletter

October 2020

## Announcements

### [Shore Friendly Mini-Grant Program Launches!](#)

We are excited to announce the launch of our Shore Friendly Mini-Grant Program. Shoreline landowners in Island County are invited to apply for funding to enhance nearshore habitat and prevent the need for hard shoreline armor. Mini-grant amounts will range from \$500-\$5,000 and can be used towards bulkhead removal, soft shore protection, native vegetation, drainage management, and house or septic relocation.

Landowners may apply for technical assistance, design and permitting services, or project implementation. To learn more about the program and eligible activities, click [here](#).



## PROTECTING PUGET SOUND STARTS AT HOME



### Coming soon: Human Wellbeing Vital Sign Survey

The [Island Local Integrating Organization](#) (ILIO) and [Oregon State University](#) have collaborated to create a human wellbeing survey for Island County residents. This survey will help prioritize efforts for ecosystem protection and recovery for years to come. It will be sent out later this month.

### *Spartina* Removal Event

Want to get in the mud and remove some invasive grass? You can have your chance on Wednesday and Thursday, October 14 and 15 from 8am-12pm. Contact Ann Prusha with Island County Natural Resources at [a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov) or 360-678-2347 for details.

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# Programmatic Updates

## Island Local Integrating Organization

The next ILIO Technical Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, November 10 from 1-3pm via Zoom.

The [Stormwater Strategic Initiative Advisory Team](#) (SIAT) will be hosting an unpermitted jurisdiction workshop on Monday, October 19 to share ideas about improving policies, processes, and actions that could benefit water quality throughout the Sound and also improve resilience and economic planning while protecting human health. Please contact [Lori Clark](#) for details.

There is an opportunity to review the Toxics in Fish (TIF) Implementation Strategies (IS) products (narrative, results chains, etc.) until Friday, October 16. Feedback will be used by the TIF Core Team to adjust and improve IS content based on external input. Thank you to those who participated in the development and review of these products. Strategies for Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity (B-IBI) is expected for public release by the end of 2020. [Visit here for the public review draft, executive summary, and public comment form.](#)

The [Habitat Strategic Implementation Lead](#) (SIL) hosted a webinar on High-Resolution Change Detection (NTA 2016-0141). The link to recorded webinar and FAQs will be added to the [SIL blog](#).

“Reflections on the FFY2020 HSI Shared Investment Pilot” will be shared soon.

The [Northwest Straits Foundation](#) just released the first in a series of Shore Friendly videos. This one covers coastal beaches and bluffs, and features coastal geologist Hugh Shipman! Check it out [here](#), and if you feel inclined to share and/or comment, that will help spread the word.

Be sure to check [ILIO's website](#) for upcoming meeting agendas and minutes.

• PCBs are released from multiple sources into Puget Sound

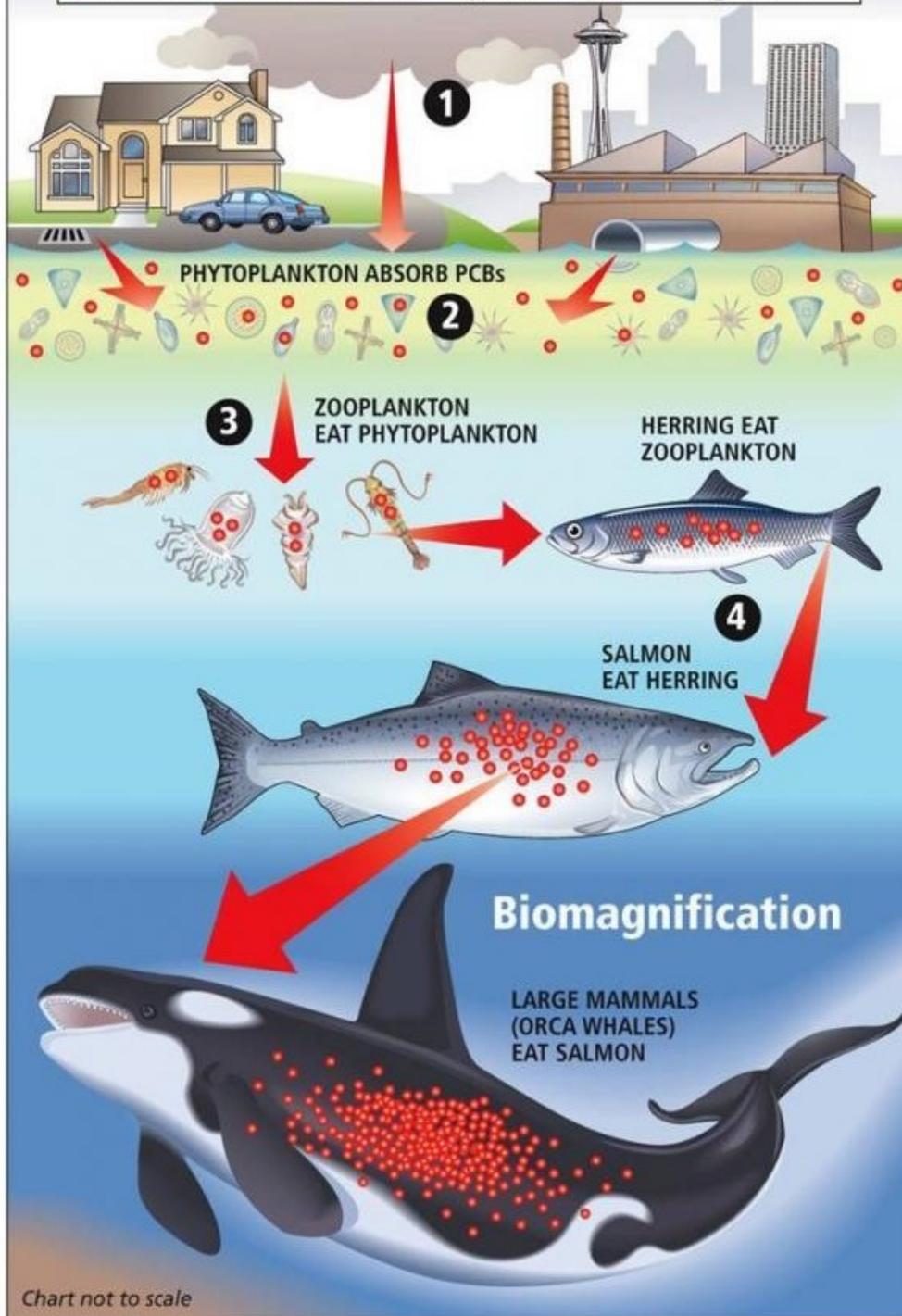


Chart not to scale

## **Marine Resources Committee (MRC)**

The next MRC meeting will be held Tuesday, November 3 from 3-5pm via Zoom.

Want to hear about nearshore restoration and monitoring efforts along our shorelines in Island County? Listen in on [this podcast](#) from the Northwest Fish Passage! MRC and Shore Friendly Coordinator Anna Toledo talks about the work of the MRC, including bull kelp and forage fish monitoring, as well as outreach and restoration work.

Throughout the month of October, join the [MRC](#), [Whidbey Island Conservation District](#), [Northwest Straits Foundation](#), [Orca Network](#), and other partners in recognizing [Orca Recovery Day](#). There are several activities you can participate in!

- [EcoChallenge](#): Join the “[Island County MRC and Friends!](#)” EcoChallenge team or create your own team and log actions that you take this month to support orca recovery. Report your actions to earn points and win prizes!
- [Orca Forum](#), Wednesday, October 14, 5:30-7pm: Join this virtual workshop to learn from local experts about orca recovery research taking place in Puget Sound.
- [Orca Trivia Night](#), Thursday, October 15, 7pm: Challenge your friends (or team up with them!) in this fun evening full of questions about orca, salmon, and marine habitat.
- [Orca-Inspired Art Contest](#): Young and old alike are invited to show their artistic creativity to depict orca recovery or the human connection with orcas. Entries are due Saturday, October 31.

Be sure to check [MRC's website](#) for upcoming meeting agendas and minutes.

## **Salmon Recovery**

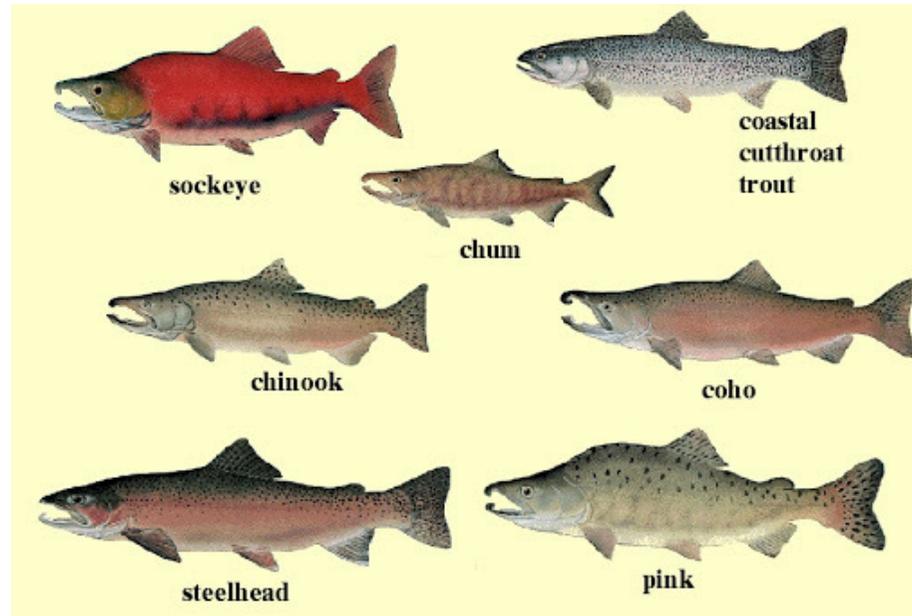
The next Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee (SRTCC) meeting will be held Wednesday, October 21 from 1-3pm via Zoom.

The 4 projects proposed for [Salmon Recovery Funding Board](#) (SRFB) and [Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration](#) (PSAR) funding this past grant round were approved by the SRFB. The final design and permitting for the Hoypus Point Armor Removal project will go under contract immediately, as well as the feasibility and design for the Polnell Point Armor Removal project. Congratulations to the [Northwest Straits Foundation](#) for proposing two outstanding armor removal projects. Pending next year's state budget and the allocation for PSAR funds, the 2 remaining projects will move forward in July 2021. Those projects are: 1) an acquisition in Port Susan and 2) a contribution to the large Florence

Island Protection Project, which we are assisting the [Stillaguamish Lead Entity](#) with. Congratulations to the [Whidbey Camano Land Trust](#) (WCLT) and the [Stillaguamish Tribes](#) for successful grant applications.

WCLT recently announced the final closing on the Elger Bay property on Camano Island. This was a 2019 Salmon Recovery funded project (PSAR funds) that leveraged other grant dollars and donations. Apparently, there was a last minute donation by a private citizen and long time supporter of salmon recovery and Camano parks. This helped seal the deal when there was a small hiccup with other expected funding that failed to materialize. Thank you (and you know who you are...)! We are ever so grateful for your generosity.

Be sure to check out the [Salmon Recovery website](#) for upcoming meeting agendas and minutes.



*Oncorhynchus spp. in the Pacific Northwest. Photo: <http://www.bluefish.org/chasing.htm>*

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## Resources, Community Events, and Interesting Reads

**Local News**

Whidbey News-Times reported on a possible ‘seven-armed octopus’ found on the beach at Ebey’s Landing. Scientists from across the nation agreed it is most likely a specimen of *Haliphron atlanticus*. Read the full article [here](#).

## Funding Opportunities

The [Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA) announced the 2020 notice of funding availability under its Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program, including funding for the new state infrastructure financing authority WIFIA (SWIFIA) program. With \$5 billion available for 2020, these funding programs accelerate investment in critical water infrastructure through innovative and flexible financing that can support diverse projects in both large and small communities. For more information, click [here](#). The deadline to submit a letter of intent is Thursday, October 15.

The [Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership](#) (PMEP) requests proposals for projects that will advance fish habitat conservation and restoration along the West Coast. PMEP is seeking project proposals that restore nursery habitats for PMEP focal species within smaller estuarine systems (with an emphasis on habitat connectivity) or proposals that increase our understanding of fish habitats in estuarine and nearshore waters. Proposals are due by Friday, October 30. Learn how to apply [here!](#)

The [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\) Marine Debris Program](#) has announced its 2021 Marine Debris Research notice of funding opportunity. NOAA will fund research projects that investigate and identify the critical input pathways for marine debris introduction into the coastal zone. The Letter of Intent is due Thursday, November 5. For more information, please visit [Grants.gov](#) and the [NOAA Marine Debris Program website](#).



*Volunteers remove a derelict vessel. Photo: American Littoral Society*

## Learn

This webinar, [Defending Drayton Harbor: Managing the recent invasion of European Green Crabs collaboratively](#), was hosted by [Whatcom Watershed Information Network](#) and [Whatcom Marine Resources Committee](#). It's a wonderful lineup of speakers who give an update on the history, biology, and present circumstances of European Green Crab in Drayton Harbor, WA.

Check out this website, [Coastal News Today](#). It covers coastal issues nationally, and it hosts several podcasts via the [American Shoreline Podcast Network](#).

Read this [fascinating article](#) about using seal skulls to learn about the history of the food web!



Harbor seals, Lopez Island, WA. Photo: Bethany Weeks (CC BY-NC 2.0) <https://flic.kr/p/6Mnq5k>

## Tools

Check out this [super cool tool](#) from the [Nisqually River Education Project](#)! It's geared towards school aged children, who will learn about watersheds, the importance of water quality, water quality parameters, and the environmental and human factors that influence water quality.

## Act!

[Skagit MRC](#) is hosting [Fidalgo Bay Day 2020 Scavenger Hunt!](#) You can participate until Saturday, October 31.

The [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) (WDFW) is seeking public comments on draft rules for commercial whale watching designed to reduce vessel impacts on Southern Resident killer whales. The new rules, expected to go into effect in 2021, are intended to reduce impacts of vessel noise and disturbance on Southern Resident killer whales so that they can effectively find food, rest, and socialize. [Visit here](#) to learn how to submit a comment.

The [Washington State Department of Ecology](#) (Ecology) is updating the [North Central Puget Sound Geographic Response Plan \(NCPS-GRP\)](#). An important part of the update

process is collecting comments from the people who live, work, and play in this GRP area. You can submit comments through their [online comment form](#).

[Ecology](#) has opened a public comment period for its proposed amendments to Chapter 173-185 WAC, Oil Movement by Rail and Pipeline Notification. Learn more [here](#).



## Upcoming Events

Wednesday, October 14	Island County Natural Resources is hosting a <i>Spartina</i> removal event from 8am-12pm. Contact <a href="#">Ann Prusha</a> for more details.
Wednesday, October 14	Participate in the Orca Recovery Day <a href="#">Orca Forum</a> from 5:30-7pm.
Wednesday & Thursday, October 14 & 15	The virtual 2020 Salish Sea Shared Waters Forum takes place. Register <a href="#">here</a> .
Thursday, October 15	Island County Natural Resources is hosting a <i>Spartina</i> removal event from 8am-12pm. Contact <a href="#">Ann Prusha</a> for more details.

Thursday, October 15	Participate in the Orca Recovery Day <a href="#">Orca Trivia Night</a> at 7pm.
Wednesday, October 21	SRTCC will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm.
Saturday, October 31	Last day to participate in the <a href="#">Fidalgo Bay Day 2020 Scavenger Hunt</a> .
Saturday, October 31	Last day to submit entries for the <a href="#">Orca-Inspired Art Contest</a> .
Tuesday, November 3	The MRC will meet via Zoom from 3-5pm.
Tuesday, November 10	The ILIO will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm.

Thank you for your interest in [Island County Natural Resources](#).

For more information, contact Ann Prusha: [a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov) or 360-678-2347.

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Serving the communities of Camano & Whidbey Islands

**Natural Resource Values Survey; we want to hear from you!**

*Island County, Washington sent this bulletin at 10/16/2020 12:23 PM PDT*

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**Natural  
Resources**

**Announcement**

October 16, 2020

# ISLAND COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCE VALUES SURVEY



Follow **survey link**:

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OR Scan QR code:

*La encuesta está disponible en  
Español también.*



## ISLAND COUNTY & OSU PROJECT

Focused on gauging Island County residents' values regarding natural resource priorities and shorelines. All Island County residents over 18 can participate. Your input will directly contribute to local planning and management change. Spanish language survey is also available.

## CONTACT

Dr. David Trimbach  
Postdoc. Research Associate  
Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife  
Oregon State University  
[david.trimbach@oregonstate.edu](mailto:david.trimbach@oregonstate.edu)  
253-254-6398

Please [take this survey](#) to let Island County ecosystem recovery partners know **what is most important to YOU!!!** This survey aims to capture Island County residents' values and experiences with the natural environment. We are looking to gain a better

understanding of what matters to local residents so that we can better focus our efforts and direct funding to the highest restoration and protection priorities in Island County.

*La encuesta está disponible en Español también.*

---

Visit [here](#) for more information about Island County Natural Resources.

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# November Natural Resources Newsletter

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# Natural Resources Newsletter

November 2020

## Announcements

### Natural Resources Values Survey

Please [take this survey](#) to let Island County ecosystem recovery partners know **what is most important to YOU!!!** This survey aims to capture Island County residents' values and experiences with the natural environment. We are looking to gain a better understanding of what matters to local residents so that we can better focus our efforts and direct funding to the highest restoration and protection priorities in Island County. *La encuesta está disponible en Español también.*

## ISLAND COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCE VALUES SURVEY



Follow **survey link**:  
[https://oregonstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_d4f9d43sfagjc2x](https://oregonstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d4f9d43sfagjc2x)

OR Scan QR code:



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### CONTACT

Dr. David Trimbach  
 Postdoc. Research Associate  
 Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife  
 Oregon State University  
 david.trimbach@oregonstate.edu  
 253-254-6398

### Accepting Nominations for 2021 Volunteer of the Year!

Do you know someone whose volunteer efforts contribute to the protection and/or restoration of the marine waters and coastal resources of Island County? Highlight their service by nominating them for the 2021 Jan Holmes Island County Coastal Volunteer of the Year Award!

This award is open to any volunteer, regardless of membership to any one organization or institution, participating in or supporting science and outreach efforts that protect or restore the coastal resources of Island County.

[Nominate a volunteer here!](#) Nominations must be received by 4:30pm on Thursday, December 31.

## Restoration at Seahorse Siesta

Right now, an old barge and bulkhead that extend 98 feet onto the beach and stretch 136 feet alongshore are being removed from the base of a feeder bluff at Seahorse Siesta in Langley. This will open up more nearshore habitat, especially for forage fish (a critical bottleneck in the food web) to spawn.

This project is a wonderful example of our committees working with local community members and partners to do meaningful work. Outreach through the [Shore Friendly](#) program and our partners at the [Northwest Straits Foundation](#) helped identify and fund feasibility for this project. SRTCC recommended the project for design and construction funding. ILIO maintained connection and support for the project with elected officials, and the MRC is conducting pre- and post-restoration monitoring. This is an excellent reminder that when communities come together, amazing things can happen!



*Restoration at Seahorse Siesta. Photo credit: Lisa Kaufman*

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## Programmatic Updates

### Island Local Integrating Organization (ILIO)

The next ILIO Technical Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, November 10 from 1-3pm via Zoom.

[Oregon State University](#) is currently scheduling and conducting interviews with LIO Coordinators and members from all 10 LIOs. Interviews relate to the ongoing Human Wellbeing Project (2017-present). Many LIO Coordinators and members have already participated in this study (2018 interviews) and/or have heard of it through the [Puget Sound Partnership](#) or LIO Coordinators. Dr. David Trimbach is still looking for members to participate in this study, which will involve a 30-minute interview (via Zoom) with a member of the research team. All information collected will be anonymized and remain confidential. Your participation will help the team better understand our multi-year collaboration, human wellbeing integration, and overall lessons learned. If you are interested in participating in interviews, please contact Dr. David Trimbach to schedule your interview at 253-254-6398 or [david.trimbach@oregonstate.edu](mailto:david.trimbach@oregonstate.edu).

The Habitat Strategic Initiative Advisory Team's [Shared Investment Pilot Reflections](#) document that summarizes the benefits, challenges, and lessons learned from the FFY2020 HSI pilot funding process is available for review.

Be sure to check [ILIO's website](#) for upcoming meeting agendas and minutes.

### Marine Resources Committee (MRC)

The next MRC meeting will be held Tuesday, December 1 from 3-5pm via Zoom.

The MRC's 2020 annual report is now available! Read about the work the MRC has done this year to monitor, restore, and educate about the local marine environment in the [full report](#) or this [two-page summary](#).

The MRC was pleased to welcome Congressman Rick Larsen to two nearshore restoration sites, where the MRC has partnered with the [Northwest Straits Foundation](#) and local community members to improve nearshore habitat, coastal processes, and beach access. Congressman Larsen visited Seahorse Siesta, where a barge and bulkhead are being removed this month at the toe of a feeder bluff, which will restore sediment transport processes and important forage fish spawning habitat. He also visited Sunlight Shores, where a bulkhead made of creosote-treated wood, rock, and debris was removed in 2018, improving the upland to nearshore connectivity, and allowing for greater beach access.



*Congressman Rick Larsen visits Sunlight Shores. From left to right: Vivian Stenbridge, Congressman Larsen, Lucas Hart, Lisa Kaulman, Anna Toledo. Photo credit: Lance Porter.*

The Board of County Commissioners passed resolution C-80-20, proclaiming October 17, 2020 Orca Recovery Day in Island County. Thank you to all our partners and community members who participated in Orca Recovery activities throughout the month of October!

Be sure to check [MRC's website](#) for upcoming meeting agendas and minutes.

### Salmon Recovery

The next Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee (SRTCC) meeting will be held Wednesday, November 18 from 3-5pm via Zoom.

SRTCC is currently looking at past and recently completed projects to assess lessons learned and how to use those lessons moving forward.

The 2021 [Salmon Recovery Funding Board](#) grant season begins in January. In preparation, SRTCC is developing calendars and working with the [Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office](#) to set up site "visit" dates. Site visits this year will likely be virtual as opposed to in-person, as they have been historically – another form of adaptive management!

Be sure to check out the [Salmon Recovery website](#) for upcoming meeting agendas and minutes.

## Resources and Interesting Reads

### Local News

The 2021 edition of [Hiking Close to Home](#) book release party will take place on Saturday, November 7 from 1-3pm at [Pacific Rim Institute for Environmental Stewardship](#). Get a copy and have it signed by authors Maribeth Crandell and Jack Hart, drink some cider, and take a tour (all while social distancing).



[Whidbey Island Conservation District's annual native bare root plant sale](#) has begun! You can order plants until Wednesday, December 30, but stock is going fast! Plant pickup will be in late February at Greenbank Farm.

## Learn

[University of Washington's School of Aquatic and Fisheries Sciences](#) is hosting a webinar series called [Cultivating Inclusive Conservation Practices](#). It will run from 10-11am every Friday until December 4th. The topics all address diversity, equity, and inclusion in conservation practices. You can watch live on their [YouTube channel](#), and recordings will also be posted there.

[Western Washington University's \(WWU\) Huxley College of the Environment](#) and the [WWU Alumni Association](#) are sponsoring a [speaker series](#) to help people better appreciate and understand how toxicology is important to them, their families, their friends, and their communities. The next one, [Microplastic Pollution: Structural Pollutant Meets Endocrine Disrupting Contaminant](#), will be held Thursday, November 19 from 11am-12pm.

The [University of Washington Climate Impacts Group](#) will be hosting [three virtual lectures](#) related to climate resilience over the next six months. The first event, [From Cliffs to Coast: Stories of Building Climate Resilience](#), is scheduled for Thursday, December 3 from 6-7:30pm.

The [Washington State Department of Commerce](#) and state agency partners at the Departments of [Fish and Wildlife](#) and [Ecology](#) are hosting an 11-week webinar series on monitoring and adaptive management of critical areas and shorelines. Starting in January 2021, the series will feature expert guest speakers, opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, tools, and resources to develop and enhance critical areas and shorelines monitoring and adaptive management. Registration information and details will be posted [here](#).

[The Nature Conservancy \(TNC\) Washington](#) recently posted a [new blog and video](#) on the [Washington Coastal Resilience Project](#). The video discusses a community-led soft shoreline armoring project in Chinook, WA. You can also visit the [Coastal Hazards Resiliency website](#) to watch and learn more.

Exciting news: "A new FEMA flood [policy](#) released late last month...is drawing praise from environmentalists because it will promote mitigation projects that provide environmental benefits in addition to flood protection." Read the article [here](#).

*The Elwha dams are gone and Chinook are surging back, but why are so few reaching the upper river?* Read the Seattle Times article [here](#).



*Two Chinook salmon on the Elwha River protect their nest, called a redd, during spawning season. (Steve Ringman / The Seattle Times)*

## Tools

Check out this [Shoreline Monitoring Database](#), which allows for data from different academic research groups, agencies and citizen science groups, and from different monitoring sites and projects, to come together to inform the effectiveness of shoreline restoration as well as explore status and trends. Learn more [here](#)!

## Act!

The [Science Panel of the Puget Sound Partnership](#) invites you to review the draft [Science Work Plan for 2020-2024](#). Implementing it will generate research, evaluation, and analysis that the Puget Sound recovery community will use to improve decision-making and accelerate recovery across Puget Sound for the benefit of the people and communities in

the region and the ecosystems on which they depend. Click [here](#) for an overview of the process and plan summary.

There is an opportunity to review the Toxics in Fish (TIF) Implementation Strategies (IS) products (narrative, results chains, etc.) until Friday, November 6. Feedback will be used by the TIF Core Team to adjust and improve IS content based on external input. Strategies for Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity (B-IBI) is expected for public release by the end of 2020. [Visit here for the public review draft, executive summary, and public comment form.](#)



*Thank you to the amazing volunteers who worked in the mud to remove 300 square feet of invasive English cordgrass, or Spartina angelica, from Freeland County Park in October!*

## Upcoming Events

Saturday, November 7	<a href="#">The 2021 edition of Hiking Close to Home book release party</a> will take place from 1-3pm at Pacific Rim Institute for Environmental Stewardship in Coupeville.
Tuesday, November 10	The ILIO will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm.
Friday, November 13	Cultivating Inclusive Conservation Practices Series: Indigenous systems of management for culturally and ecologically resilient Pacific salmon fisheries will be held from from 10-11am. <a href="#">Watch live here.</a>
Wednesday, November 18	SRTCC will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm.
Thursday, November 19	Toxicology and Society Speaker Series: <a href="#">Microplastic Pollution: Structural Pollutant Meets Endocrine Disrupting Contaminant</a> featuring speaker Peter Ross will be held from 11am-12pm.
Friday, November 20	Cultivating Inclusive Conservation Practices Series: Tribal treaty resource collaborative restoration -Partnerships to restore natural processes and resilience will be held from from 10-11am. <a href="#">Watch live here.</a>
Tuesday, December 1	The MRC will meet via Zoom from 3-5pm.
Thursday, December 3	Toxicology and Society Speaker Series: <a href="#">Contaminants of Concern for Human and Environmental Health</a> featuring speaker Nancy Denslow will be held from 11am-12pm.
Thursday, December 3	Climate Impacts Group is hosting <a href="#">From Cliffs to Coasts: Stories of Climate Resilience</a> from 6-7:30pm.
Friday, December 4	Cultivating Inclusive Conservation Practices Series: Conflict or Collaboration? Factors affecting community relations in stewarding Puget Sound will be held from 10-11am. <a href="#">Watch live here.</a>

Thank you for your interest in [Island County Natural Resources](#).

For more information, contact Ann Prusha: [a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov) or 360-678-2347.

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# Natural Resources Newsletter

## Holiday Edition!

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December 2020

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### Incorporating Sustainability Into your Holidays

Happy holidays! 2020 has been an intense year, and we've had to learn to adjust to so many new things. Since the holiday season is going to look different this year, it may be a good time to reflect on holiday traditions. What is working for you? What can you let go of? This time of year especially, it's easy to be swept up in the rush of the season. We are sharing some simple, easy ways to include conservation in your holiday plans. Even small changes can collectively make a huge difference in lessening our environmental footprint. We encourage you to consider adding a few things on this list to your holiday traditions.

Take a look to see what inspires you, and we'd love to hear if you tried any of these! [Email photos](#) of how you are making your holidays more sustainable, and you may be featured in a future newsletter or Facebook post!



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## Food

- Consider having a vegetarian or vegan meal, or introducing those elements to your usual holiday food. Challenge yourself! You can learn to make some amazing new dishes.
- Find locally sourced foods. Check out these guides ([here](#) and [here](#)) for local food options in Island and Skagit Counties.
- Find your own food: with permission, wild harvest edible plants from the woods (there are a lot of great books on the subject), or harvest shellfish (make sure to get a permit and always check the [Shellfish Safety Map](#) first). You will definitely appreciate every bite!
- Plant an [indoor veggie garden](#), or grow some herbs in a windowsill or window box.
- Reuse food. Save your veggie scraps and make vegetable stock. Broth from turkey, chicken, beef, and ham bones can make an excellent soup base.
- Look into donating leftover food to food banks; just be sure to check with the individual food bank first. [Click here](#) for information on food banks serving Island County.
- [Compost](#) leftovers.
- Use recyclable aluminum foil, beeswax wraps, or reusable food storage containers for leftovers rather than plastic wrap.
- Use reusable plates/cups/cutlery/napkins.

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## Decorations

During the darkest days of the year, nothing is more magical than seeing all off the holiday lights and decorations.

## Trees

- Decorate an indoor potted tree (or any potted plant) instead of a plastic or cut tree.
- Decorate a living tree outside instead of having one inside.
- Get a living native tree, decorate it, and plant it outside the following spring.
- Rent a tree! Some places will deliver a living, potted tree. After the holidays, they will pick it up and bring it back to the nursery. In some cases, you can rent the same tree year after year and watch it grow.
- If you get a cut tree, recycle it in January. [Be creative!](#) You can make a [hugelkultur mound](#), line a trail, feed birds, prevent erosion, and make mulch.
- Real cut trees are more sustainable than plastic ones – learn why [here](#).
- If you do prefer an artificial tree, consider purchasing a used one from a local thrift store or getting a hand-me-down from a friend, rather than buying new.
- Get creative with the materials in your home, and craft your own tree. Check out [this article](#) for some ideas, including using ladders, books, wall art, and driftwood.

## Decorating

- Switch to LED or solar lights for decorations. They are much more energy efficient. LED lights last longer and don't heat up like other types of light bulbs.
- Set an automatic timer for your decorations.
- Make or purchase [compostable or edible decorations](#). You can make new decorations every year, and some can be saved and used year after year.
- Make edible decorations for wildlife, and hang them around your yard, porch, or next to a window. Spread peanut butter on a pine cone, roll it in bird seed, and hang it with a festive ribbon. See how many feathery visitors you get! This is especially fun for kiddos.
- Do you like to throw confetti at midnight on New Year's? Make compostable confetti for New Year's Eve by hole-punching or ripping fallen leaves.
- Make wreaths and garlands out of native plants - explore the woods and find cedar boughs (which twist really well and make a great wreath base), snowberries, salal, lichens, and rose hips. Always make sure you have permission to harvest, and don't take more than 1/10th of a plant's resources.



www.JenniferDitterich.com

*Pinecone bird feeder.*

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## Gifts & Cards

### Buying Gifts

- Make a homemade gift (something like jam, bread, soap, crafts, etc.) - you can learn a new skill and give someone an unforgettable, personalized gift. Here's a list of [mason jar gift ideas](#).
- Donate to a good cause that the other person believes in (this is great for people who are difficult to shop for).

- Consider doing an act of service for someone instead of purchasing a gift.
- Gift an experience instead of material good.
- Give gifts that help enable someone to live more sustainably (bird houses/feeders, bat houses, non-plastic household products, compostable garbage and dog poop bags, bidet, mason bee house, native pollinator-friendly seed mix or plants, reusable bamboo silverware, etc.)
- If you can, try to give gifts that are made of compostable or recycled material, locally produced, fair-trade certified, second hand, have plastic-free packaging, etc.
- Do a re-gift swap if friends and family are also into it. Re-gifting something meaningful, like an old book or piece of art, can be a very special gift.
- Consider setting up a gift exchange with a group of friends or family - instead of buying for everyone, have a drawing so each person only needs to buy for one other person.
- Shop locally if possible. Also, buying a gift certificate for a local business could be a great option.
- When buying online, consider how far the item needs to travel to get to you. Ask companies if they'll ship to you in more sustainable packaging.

## Wrapping Gifts

- Use a reusable shopping bag instead of gift wrap.
- Wrap gifts in materials you would throw away. [Potato chip bags](#) make a beautiful metallic wrapping paper!
- Put a present in a gift-bag, which can be used over and over.
- Wrap gifts in compostable or recyclable materials. You can incorporate herbs or other pretty things from nature to accent minimalist wrapping.
- Play hide and seek with gifts. Don't wrap them, but hide them around the house and leave clues. This is just as much fun as finding a gift under the tree or in a stocking.



*Minimal wrapping can look very festive! Click image for photo source.*

## Cards

- Send an e-card instead of a physical card. Hallmark, Blue Mountain, Punchbowl, Paperless Post, Greenenvelope, Open Me, and Smilebox are some of the many platforms you can use. You can customize them and send videos. Some are even free of charge!
- Mail a post card instead of a card with an envelope.
- Use recyclable or compostable paper (or paper made from recycled material).
- If you're crafty, try making your own paper out of [dryer lint](#), [old newspapers](#), [shreddings](#), and many other materials. You can imbed wildflowers, seeds, and leaves. There are tutorials online, and it makes for a very memorable, special holiday card.
- Make or purchase cards or paper embedded with native, pollinator-friendly wildflower seeds. In the spring, your card can become someone's mini wildflower garden.
- Save envelopes from cards to use as scrap paper, reminders, grocery lists, etc. It gives them a second life before they go to the recycling bin.
- Instead of throwing cards away, use them as decorations! Staple them to a festive ribbon, twine, or garland, and make one a year. After the holidays are over, store them with the rest of your decorations. It's a great way to display cards, and it's fun to watch your friends and families evolve over the years.

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## New Traditions!

- Because things are so different this year, it's an opportunity to begin new traditions, with sustainability in mind.

- Volunteer! There are a lot of organizations that need individuals and families to donate their time. Maybe think about adopting a [road](#) or your favorite [park/trail](#).
- Since hosting and traveling is not an option right now, consider using the extra time as an opportunity for reflection and self-care. Maybe check out a new park, beach, or natural area.
- Participate in the [Christmas Day Bird Count](#)! It is still happening this year, but with special COVID-19 precautions. Join the thousands of volunteers who participate, and be part of a massive citizen science effort.
- Consider making a New Year's resolution to visit more natural areas, or to get involved with a local conservation organization.
- In future years (when traveling is safer), offset your holiday travel. [Learn more here](#).
- Visit friends and family virtually instead of flying or driving. Include people remotely who you might not see otherwise - it can be a good opportunity to reconnect.

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**Be Well!**

**We hope you have a wonderful holiday season!**



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# Natural Resources Newsletter

December 2020

## Announcements

### Accepting Nominations for 2021 Volunteer of the Year

Do you know someone whose volunteer efforts contribute to the protection and/or restoration of the marine waters and coastal resources of Island County? Highlight their service by nominating them for the 2021 Jan Holmes Island County Coastal Volunteer of the Year Award!

The [Island County Marine Resources Committee \(MRC\)](#), [Sound Water Stewards \(SWS\)](#), and [Washington State University \(WSU\) Extension Island County](#) are pleased to announce this call for nominations. The award is open to any volunteer, regardless of membership to any one organization or institution, participating in or supporting science and outreach efforts that protect or restore the coastal resources of Island County.

[Nominate a volunteer here!](#) Nominations must be received by 4:30pm on Thursday, December 31.

### Restoration Continues!

Efforts carry on at Seahorse Siesta in Langley. Soon, this nearshore habitat will open up and be suitable for forage fish spawning. Thank you to everyone for their continuous hard work on this project! Learn more [here](#). *Photo credits: Dawn Spilsbury Pucci*





## Programmatic Updates

### Island Local Integrating Organization (ILIO)

The next ILIO Technical Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, January 12 from 1-3pm via Zoom.

Be sure to check [ILIO's website](#) for upcoming meeting agendas and minutes.

## Marine Resources Committee (MRC)

The next MRC meeting will be held Tuesday, January 5 from 3-5pm via Zoom.

We would like to express our gratitude for outgoing MRC members, Matt Kukuk and Mike Bianchi. Thank you Matt and Mike for your service on the MRC, and your dedication to protecting and restoring our local marine resources!

Be sure to check [MRC's website](#) for upcoming meeting agendas and minutes.

## Salmon Recovery

The next Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee (SRTCC) meeting will be held Wednesday, December 16 from 3-5pm via Zoom.

Be sure to check out the [Salmon Recovery website](#) for upcoming meeting agendas and minutes.

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# Resources and Interesting Reads

## Local News

Native Plant Sale!

You can still order plants from [Whidbey Island Conservation District's annual native bare root plant sale](#) until Wednesday, December 30.

Plant pickup will be in late February at Greenbank Farm.



## Learn

Join the [Habitat Strategic Initiative](#) and [Washington State University Extension](#) on Wednesday, December 16th at 1pm to learn more about the [Oil Spill Awareness and Response Support pilot program](#) and the novel approach to connecting volunteer organizations. Click [here](#) to join the meeting.

It's here! [Northwest Straits Foundation](#) just released the [second in their series](#) of Shore Friendly videos. This one is about managing shoreline erosion, and features coastal geologist Hugh Shipman.

[Check out this article](#) about how climate change could spark a mortgage disaster. Similarly, [this article](#) addresses how climate change, along with some of our policies, is harming equality and creating climate gentrification.



*Before and after composite view at the site of a 2013 bulkhead-removal project on the shore of Penrose Point State Park in Pierce County. Composite: Kris Symer, PSI; original photos: Kristin Williamson, South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group*

Click [here](#) to read about some proposed changes to nationwide permits, which would shrink federal stream protections.

The [Washington State Department of Commerce](#) and state agency partners at the Departments of [Fish and Wildlife](#) and [Ecology](#) are hosting an [11-week webinar series on monitoring and adaptive management of critical areas and shorelines](#). The series will feature expert guest speakers, opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, tools, and resources to develop and enhance critical areas and shorelines monitoring and adaptive management. [Workshop 1 - How to Successfully Protect Critical Areas and Shorelines](#), will take place on Wednesday, January 13 at 9am.

## Tools

Help collect information that is used to characterize beach change, along with the impact of nearshore hazards, in order to enhance awareness among decision-makers and stakeholders. Download the [MyCoast](#) App today! Need a place to start? [Help document King Tides!](#)



A photo from the MyCoast photo library, showing a king tide at Greenbank, Whidbey Island

## Upcoming Events

Wednesday, December 16	Habitat Strategic Initiative Grant Program Webinar: <a href="#">Pilot Program – “Oil Spill Awareness and Response Support” Training</a> at 1pm.
Wednesday, December 16	SRTC will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm.
Thursday, December 31	Last day to nominate someone for the <a href="#">2021 Volunteer of the Year award</a> .
Tuesday, January 5	MRC will meet via Zoom from 3-5pm.
Tuesday, January 12	ILIO will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm
Wednesday, January 13	Critical Areas Adaptive Management Training <a href="#">Workshop 1: How to Successfully Protect Critical Areas and Shorelines</a> will take place at 9am.

Thank you for your interest in [Island County Natural Resources](#).

For more information, contact Ann Prusha: [a\\_prusha@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:a_prusha@islandcountywa.gov) or 360-678-2347.

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# Natural Resources

# Announcement

December 23, 2020

## Only One Week Left!

### Submit Your Nomination for the 2021 Volunteer of the Year.

Do you know someone whose volunteer efforts contribute to the protection and/or restoration of the marine waters and coastal resources of Island County? Highlight their service by nominating them for the **2021 Jan Holmes Island County Coastal Volunteer of the Year Award!**

The [Island County Marine Resources Committee \(MRC\)](#), [Sound Water Stewards \(SWS\)](#), and [Washington State University \(WSU\) Extension Island County](#) are pleased to announce this call for nominations. The award is open to any volunteer, regardless of membership to any one organization or institution, participating in or supporting science and outreach efforts that protect or restore the coastal resources of Island County.

The recipient of this prestigious award will be announced at the virtual [Sound Waters University](#) on Saturday, February 6, 2021.

[Nominate a volunteer here!](#) Nominations must be received by **4:30pm on Thursday, December 31**. If you have questions about the form, please contact [Anna Toledo](#).



*The late Jan Holmes - the Volunteer of the Year Award is named in her honor.*

To nominate a volunteer, [please fill out this form.](#)

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# Natural Resources

## Newsletter

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January 2021

### Programmatic Updates

#### Island Local Integrating Organization (ILIO)

The next ILIO Technical Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, January 12 from 1-3pm via Zoom.

The [Stormwater Strategic Initiative](#) is pleased to share the final Implementation Strategy (IS) for Protecting and Restoring Stream Health, as measured by the Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity (B-IBI) Strategy. The [Final B-IBI IS](#) aims to improve water quality through integrated watershed planning and capacity building.

Be sure to check [ILIO's website](#) for upcoming meeting agendas and minutes.



*Caddisfly larva in its casing (Limnephilidae)*

## **Marine Resources Committee (MRC)**

The next MRC meeting will be held Tuesday, February 2 from 3-5pm via Zoom.

Despite 2020's unique challenges, our volunteers have been hard at work all year. The bull kelp team conducted boat-based surveys and collected aerial images this summer to monitor bull kelp beds around Island County. Read the 2020 bull kelp monitoring report [here!](#) And be sure to check out the [collection of videos](#) from our volunteers of creatures seen in bull kelp beds, including sand lance, herring, and rockfish.

Be sure to check [MRC's website](#) for upcoming meetings, agendas, and minutes.

## **Salmon Recovery**

The next Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee (SRTCC) meeting will be held Wednesday, January 20 from 1-3pm via Zoom.

SRTCC is pleased to announce its Request for Proposals to be considered for the 2021 [Salmon Recovery Funding Board](#) (SRFB) grant round. A [Letter of Intent](#) is due by Friday, January 15. Final applications are due by Monday, February 15. Project sponsors can find the Request for Proposals and download the Letter of Intent template [here](#). Please contact [Dawn Spilsbury Pucci](#) with questions.

Be sure to check out the [Salmon Recovery website](#) for upcoming meeting agendas and minutes.

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# Resources and Interesting Reads

## Local News

New research shows that jet noise reaches orcas 100 feet underwater. Read all about it in this [Seattle Times article](#) and in this [Seattle Times opinion article](#).



*A northern resident orca calf gets a belly rub from its mother as they swim. Andrew Trites / University of British Columbia*

## Learn

The [Washington State Department of Commerce](#) and state agency partners at the Departments of [Fish and Wildlife](#) and [Ecology](#) are hosting an [11-week webinar series on monitoring and adaptive management of critical areas and shorelines](#). The series will feature expert guest speakers, opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, tools, and resources to develop and enhance critical areas and shorelines monitoring and adaptive management. [Workshop 1 - How to Successfully Protect Critical Areas and Shorelines](#), will take place on Wednesday, January 13 at 9am.

Check out [this article](#) about scientists confronting anti-Black racism and building community. Also, the [Black in Marine Science](#) website has some awesome articles and resources!

Large numbers of Coho that enter Puget Sound's urban streams are dying before they can spawn. Scientists have linked it to a chemical commonly found in tires. Read about it [here](#).

"A river spawning species of forage fish known as the longfin smelt is rare and getting rarer in

the Salish Sea. Biologists are looking into the mysterious decline of the 'hooligans' of the Nooksack." Read the article [here](#).



*A longfin smelt. Rachel Arnold/SSRC*

The [2020 Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force Annual Report](#) is available now. The report highlights accomplishments and current work in oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response.

## Act!

During the 2021 Legislative Session, [Puget Sound Partnership](#) (PSP) is offering multiple opportunities to help you stay informed about legislative activities that affect Puget Sound protection and recovery efforts. Visit [PSP's website](#) for Legislative Updates, the Legislative Calendar, and instructions for attending Legislative Information Call-In meetings with Jeff Parsons, Legislative Policy Director. The Call-In meetings take place Fridays from 11:30am to no later than 12:30pm. The first one will be Friday, January 8. You can also sign up to receive email updates [here](#).

The public comment period for the [North Puget Sound Geographic Response Plan](#) is open until February 15. The area encompasses the marine waters between the San Juan Islands and mainland Washington (roughly), and extends from Fidalgo Island to the south to the Canadian Border.

Mark your calendar! Registration is now open for Sound Water Stewards' [27th Sound Waters University](#) on Saturday, February 6. It will be entirely virtual this year. You will be able to tune in to live classes all day, and have an opportunity to watch classes after the event. Register [here](#).



# SOUND WATERS UNIVERSITY 2021

February 6, 2021



## Event Rundown

Tuesday, January 12	ILIO will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm
Wednesday, January 13	Critical Areas Adaptive Management Training <a href="#">Workshop 1: How to Successfully Protect Critical Areas and Shorelines</a> will take place at 9am.
Friday, January 15	<a href="#">Letter of Intent</a> due to SRTCC for the 2021 SRFB grant round.
Wednesday, January 20	Critical Areas Adaptive Management Training <a href="#">Adaptive Management Workshop 2: Setting the Stage - Successful adaptive management and critical area</a> will take place at 9am.
Wednesday, January 20	SRTCC will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm.
Wednesday, January 27	Critical Areas Adaptive Management Training <a href="#">Adaptive Management Workshop 3: Wetlands</a> will take place at 9am.
Tuesday, February 2	MRC will meet via Zoom from 3-5pm.
Wednesday, February 3	Critical Areas Adaptive Management Training <a href="#">Adaptive Management Workshop 4: Geologically Hazardous Areas</a> will take place at 9am.
Saturday, February 6	<a href="#">Sound Waters University</a> will take place from 8:30am-3:15pm.

Thank you for your interest in [Island County Natural Resources](#).

For more information, contact Ann Prusha: [a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov) or 360-678-2347.

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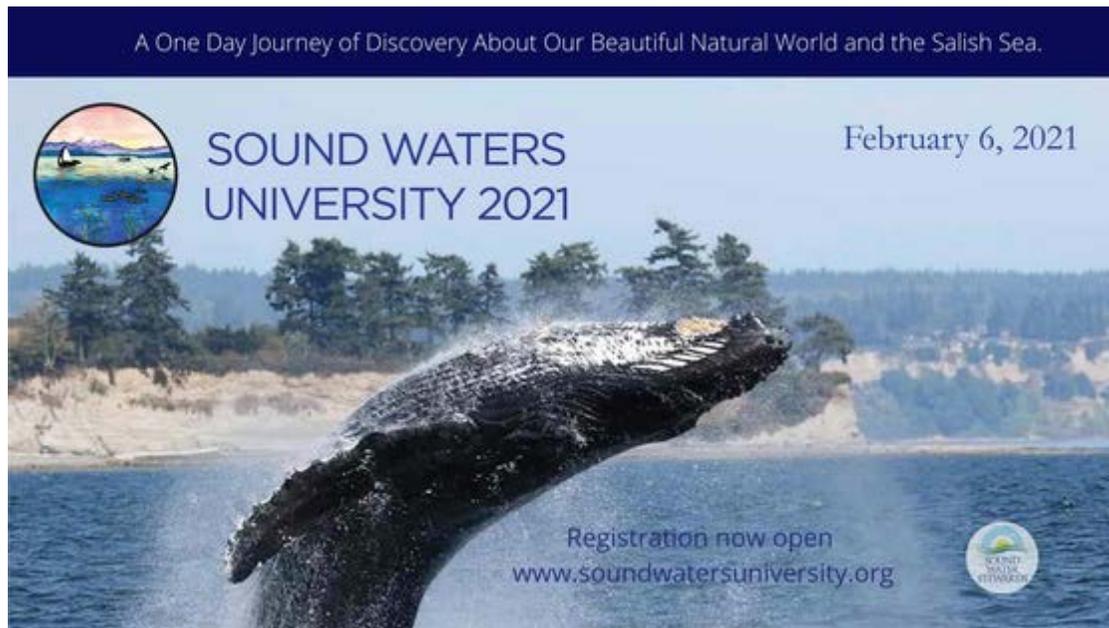
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# Natural Resources Announcement

January 12, 2021

## Register Now!



Sound Waters University will be brought to you virtually by [Sound Water Stewards](#) of Island County on Saturday, February 6. There will be a wide variety of informative classes and presentations about the natural world and the fragile environment of the Salish Sea. It will include fascinating explorations on forest health, birds, river otters, earthquakes, groundwater science, ocean acidification, and more.

**Don't miss out on the early-bird special of \$45 until Friday, January 15!**

Island County will have a presence; the Shellfish, Noxious Weeds, Salmon Recovery, and Shore Friendly programs, and the Marine Resources Committee will all be featured as virtual exhibitors. Doug Kelly, Hydrogeologist with Island County Environmental Health, will present on *Understanding Groundwater Science*.

View the full schedule here: [www.soundwatersuniversity.org/classes/](http://www.soundwatersuniversity.org/classes/).

There will be 12 virtual classes to choose from, and opening remarks begin at 8:30 am. Attendees will have the wonderful opportunity to listen to all of the exciting speakers, with 12 sessions planned, and will have full access to all class recordings post-event except for Understanding Treaty Rights From a Tulalip Perspective, which will be live only! There will be breaks, and a chance to view the virtual exhibitors after each class session.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Peter S. Ross, an international authority on ocean pollution, who will present *A Sea of Trouble - Taking Action On Plastics Pollution*.

Discounts are available for students, teachers, military, and AmeriCorps members. Attendance is limited, so be sure to register today at [www.soundwatersuniversity.org](http://www.soundwatersuniversity.org).

For more information, please visit the [Sound Waters University page!](#)

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# Natural Resources Newsletter

February 2021

## Announcements

### Shore Friendly RFQ and Educational Opportunity

Island County Department of Natural Resources is soliciting interest from consultants who wish to be evaluated and considered to provide technical assistance, design services, and permitting assistance for the Island County Shore Friendly Program. View the full Request for Qualification (RFQ) [here](#). Questions regarding the project should be directed to Anna Toledo at [a.toledo@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:a.toledo@islandcountywa.gov) or 360-678-2349. The submittal must be received no later than **4:30pm on Wednesday, February 17**.

We will be partnering with the [Northwest Straits Foundation](#) to host a webinar for Island County shoreline property owners in March. Details to come!



## PROTECTING PUGET SOUND STARTS AT HOME



### CRAFT 3 Regional Loan Program

The CRAFT 3 Regional Loan Program, which Island County Public Health participates in, received a \$10 million award! These dollars can help local homeowners repair and replace on-site septic systems when they qualify for a low-cost loan. [This award will help build resilient communities](#). Learn all about the program, and how you might qualify, [here](#).

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## Programmatic Updates

### [Island Local Integrating Organization \(ILIO\)](#)

The next ILIO Technical Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, March 9 from 1-3pm via Zoom.

The ILIO Executive Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, February 24 from 10-11am. These meetings are open to the public. Join via this [link](#).

Be sure to check [ILIO's website](#) for upcoming meeting agendas and minutes.

### [Marine Resources Committee \(MRC\)](#)

The next MRC meeting will be held Tuesday, March 2 from 3-5pm via Zoom.

The MRC and [Sound Water Stewards](#) hosted a training on utilizing the [MyCoast app](#), a cell phone application to track and report beach change and nearshore hazards to enhance awareness among decision-makers and stakeholders. The recorded training will

be made available on the MRC website this month.

Be sure to check [MRC's website](#) for upcoming meetings, agendas, and minutes.

## [Salmon Recovery](#)

The next Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee (SRTCC) meeting will be held Wednesday, February 17 from 3-5pm via Zoom.

There are 3 projects proposed for this year's grant round. The projects will be reviewed by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's Technical Review Panel and SRTCC on Thursday, March 4. The Agenda is TBD. This is an open public meeting. More details are coming soon; please check back [here](#).

The 2020 [State of the Salmon](#) report is out! Read the Executive Summary [here](#).

Be sure to check out the [Salmon Recovery website](#) for upcoming meeting agendas and minutes.



*English Boom Area, Camano Island - stay tuned for exciting developments! Photo by Dawn Spilsbury Pucci.*

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## Resources and Interesting Reads

### Local News

A salmonellosis outbreak in Washington is killing many birds this winter, especially finches. [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife \(WDFW\)](#) is recommending the **removal of all bird feeders and bird baths through February**. Visit [WDFW's](#)

[salmonellosis FAQ page](#) for more information.



*Pine Siskins, a species of finch. Please remove your feeders through February to protect them from salmonellosis. Photo by Judith Roan/Audubon Photography Awards (click photo for source page).*

## Funding Opportunities

[Washington State Department of Ecology](#) is requesting grant proposals for Spills Program Coastal Protection Fund Environmental Improvement Projects. Proposals are due by 5pm on Wednesday, February 24. Guidelines can be found [here](#).

The [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) (NOAA) is offering a [funding opportunity](#) to encourage non-Federal entities to partner with NOAA on jointly funded hydrographic surveying and mapping and related activities of mutual interest. Proposals are due by Friday, February 26. Also, if an entity is unable to apply for this particular opportunity but has an interest in participating in similar, future opportunities, they are encouraged to submit a one-page statement of interest by Friday, February 26 to help gauge whether to offer this matching fund program in future years.

## Learn

If you care about conservation and the environment, it's easy to become disheartened. If this is a struggle you can relate to, [please read this article!](#) It argues that hope is ultimately better than despair for you AND the environment.



*West Beach, Whidbey Island. Photo by Ann Prusha.*

The [Washington State Department of Commerce](#) and state agency partners at the Departments of [Fish and Wildlife](#) and [Ecology](#) are hosting an [11-week webinar series on monitoring and adaptive management of critical areas and shorelines](#). The series will feature expert guest speakers, opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, tools, and resources to develop and enhance critical areas and shorelines monitoring and adaptive management. The next one, [Workshop 6 - Frequently Flooded Areas](#), will take place on Wednesday, February 17 at 9am.

The Washington [Coastal Training Program](#) is offering an interactive course, [Coastal Adaptation Planning Essentials](#), designed for coastal management practitioners who are just starting to address the challenges coastal communities are facing as a result of climate change. Participants will learn the foundational concepts of a five-step adaptation planning process over the course of two workshops. The first one will be Tuesday, March 23, and the second one will be Thursday, March 25. Both are from 9am-11am.

[Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership](#) (PNAMP) and [StreamNet](#) have teamed up to host a series of webinars on various topics related to emerging technologies for monitoring and data management. Each month will focus on one topic and include three or four virtual sessions with expert speakers from the field. Sessions will be recorded and posted to [PNAMP's YouTube Channel](#). February's topic will be Data Management. Visit [here](#) to register!

The [UW School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences](#) is putting on their Bevan Series of weekly seminars. This year's focus is on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. You can tune in live on Thursdays at 4:30pm or watch the recordings afterwards [here](#).

The [Puget Sound Partnership](#) (PSP) has recently released the final products of the Puget Sound Vital Signs Revisions project. Read the full report [here](#)!

[This paper](#) describes and provides results for the coastal vertical land movement analysis conducted as a result of the [Washington Coastal Resilience Project](#).

Read [this article](#) to learn about some marine ecosystems' mysterious thiamine deficiencies, and its deadly effect on juvenile salmon.



*Salmon hatching. Photo from Randall Benton/Sacramento Bee/Zuma Press/Alamy Stock Photo.*

## Tools

Check out PSP's [Nearshore Credit Program](#), which streamlines the permitting process for building residential or commercial in- and over-water structures and protects habitat for Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species within the nearshore ecosystem. An article about the program can be found [here](#).

[Coastal Hazards Resiliency Network](#) has recently added a number of new case studies to the [Coastal Hazards Risk Reduction Project Mapper](#) that focus on sea level rise considerations. For more information and to read excerpts from several of the case studies, visit [here](#).

## Act!

[Help PSP identify desired outcomes for Puget Sound Recovery](#). Desired outcomes focus on reducing adverse effects on the ecosystem and managing the human activities that create them, while maintaining healthy, vibrant, and equitable communities. By successfully achieving the desired outcomes determined in the Action Agenda, the recovery community will accelerate transformative change for Puget Sound recovery. Visit [here](#) to see the draft and to weigh in!

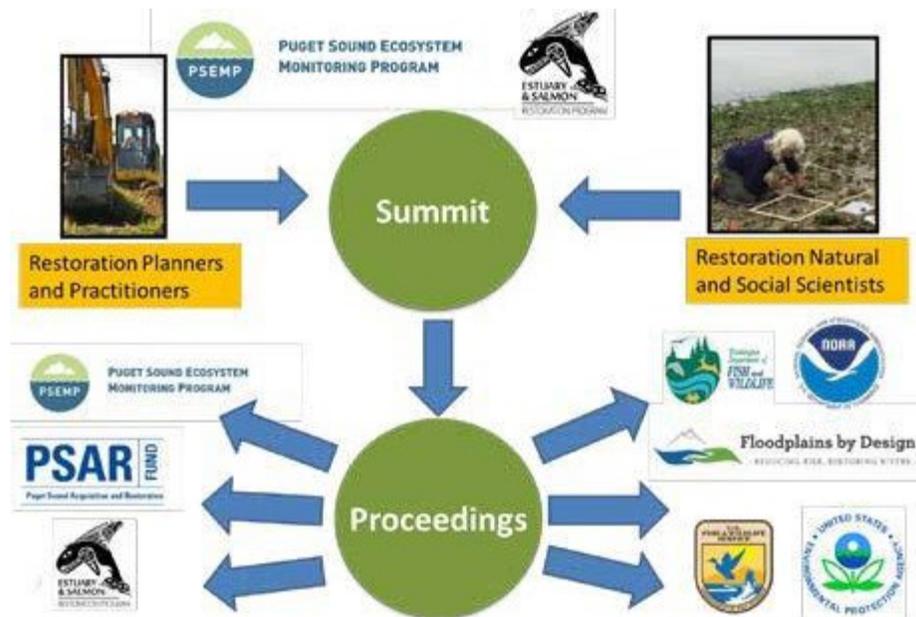


*Chinook Salmon. Photo from Shutterstock/Kevin Cass (click photo for source page).*

During the 2021 Legislative Session, [PSP](#) is offering multiple opportunities to help you stay informed about legislative activities that affect Puget Sound protection and recovery efforts. Visit [PSP's website](#) for Legislative Updates, the Legislative Calendar, and instructions for attending Legislative Information Call-In meetings with Jeff Parsons, Legislative Policy Director. The Call-In meetings take place Fridays from 11:30am to no later than 12:30pm, and will continue until May 7. You can also sign up to receive email updates [here](#).

The public comment period for the [North Puget Sound Geographic Response Plan](#) is open until Monday, February 15. The area encompasses the marine waters between the San Juan Islands and mainland Washington (roughly), and extends from Fidalgo Island to the south to the Canadian Border.

The [Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program](#) (PSEMP) Nearshore Work Group and WDFW's [Estuary and Salmon and Restoration Program](#) (ESRP), is hosting a Nearshore Restoration Virtual Summit. Details and registration information are coming soon! Mark your calendars; the Beaches topic will be Wednesday and Thursday, March 10-11, the Deltas topic will be Wednesday and Thursday, March 17-18, and the Embayments and Deltas topics will be Wednesday and Thursday, March 24-25.



## Event Rundown

Thursday, February 11	Sierra Nevada Alliance is hosting a <a href="#">webinar featuring Carolyn Finney, PhD - Black Faces, White Spaces</a> ; <a href="#">Christian Cooper</a> ; <a href="#">John Muir</a> , and <a href="#">Playing the Long Game</a> from 12-1pm.
Wednesday, February 17	Critical Areas Adaptive Management Training <a href="#">Workshop 6 - Frequently Flooded Areas</a> will be held at 9am.
Wednesday, February 17	SRTCC will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm.
Wednesday, February 24	Critical Areas Adaptive Management Training <a href="#">Workshop 7 - Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas (CARAs)</a> will be held at 9am.
Wednesday, February 24	ILIO Executive Committee will meet via Zoom from 10-11am.
Thursday, February 25	Long Live the Kings is working on some exciting new projects in the Nisqually River Estuary in partnership with the Nisqually Indian Tribe and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Learn more in <a href="#">this webinar</a> , at 6pm.
Tuesday, March 2	The MRC will meet via Zoom from 3-5pm
Wednesday, March 3	Critical Areas Adaptive Management Training <a href="#">Workshop 8 - Shoreline</a> will be held at 9am.
Thursday, March 4	The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is launching the <a href="#">Environmental Justice (EJ) and Systemic Racism Speaker Series</a> by featuring <a href="#">The Mapping Inequality Project</a> from 9-10am.
Tuesday, March 9	ILIO Technical Committee will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm.

Wednesday-Thursday, March 10-11	Nearshore Restoration Virtual Summit: Beaches (details coming soon).
Tuesday, March 16	Cascadia Coastal Hazards Research Coordination Network is hosting a seminar about <a href="#">RAPID data for coastal community hazard planning and resilience</a> from 2:30-3:30pm.
Wednesday-Thursday, March 17-18	Nearshore Restoration Virtual Summit: Deltas (details coming soon).
Tuesday & Thursday, March 23 & 25	<a href="#">Coastal Adaptation Planning Essentials</a> workshop will be held from 9-11am.
Wednesday-Thursday, March 24-25	Nearshore Restoration Virtual Summit: Embayments and Deltas (details coming soon).

Thank you for your interest in Island County Natural Resources.

For more information, contact Ann Prusha: [a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov) or 360-678-2347.

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# Natural Resources Announcement

February 19, 2021

## Free Virtual Shore Friendly Workshops



[REGISTER HERE](#)

The Island County Shore Friendly Program invites you to join us for a free virtual workshop, in partnership with the Northwest Straits Foundation and Island County Marine

Resources Committee, in our ongoing work to provide resources for shoreline landowners and anyone interested in learning more about this place we all love.

### **Who Should Attend?**

Shoreline property owners interested in managing erosion risk to their property and improving habitat for fish and wildlife.

### **What Will I Learn?**

Join us for a workshop about coastal processes and Puget Sound habitats. Shoreline erosion can be a challenge, but it is a natural process. Learn how you can protect and maintain your shoreline property and access while also protecting the fish, wildlife and habitats that we all enjoy.

### **When Is This Happening?**

You have two workshop options:

- [\*\*Wednesday, February 24, 6:00pm-8:00pm – Puget Sound Focus\*\*](#)

OR

- [\*\*Wednesday, March 17, 4:00pm-6:00pm – Island County Focus\*\*](#): This workshop will cover the same introduction to coastal processes and habitats as the February 24<sup>th</sup> workshop, with a specific focus on Island County. Additionally, this workshop will provide breakout sessions focused on your specific type of shoreline (high bluff, medium bank, or low-no bank).

### **Who Is Hosting This?**

These workshops are hosted in partnership with the [Northwest Straits Foundation](#) and [Island County's Shore Friendly programs](#) and the [Island County Marine Resources Committee](#). The presenters will be Jessica Cote, a coastal engineer and Traci Sanderson, a coastal ecologist, with Blue Coast Engineering.

### **Where Can I Learn More?**

- [\*\*Register for one of the workshops here!\*\*](#)
- Learn more about [Island County's Shore Friendly Program](#) and the [Northwest Straits Shore Friendly Program](#), including technical assistance and cost-share opportunities.
- For more information, contact [Lisa Kaufman](#), Nearshore Program Manager, Northwest Straits Foundation or [Anna Toledo](#), Watershed Planner, Island County

We hope you will join us!



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# Natural Resources Newsletter

March 2021

## Announcements

### [Free Virtual Shore Friendly Workshop](#)

The [Island County Shore Friendly Program](#) invites you to join us for a free virtual workshop, in partnership with the [Northwest Straits Foundation](#) (NWSF) and [Island County Marine Resources Committee](#), in our ongoing work to provide resources for shoreline landowners and anyone interested in learning more about this place we all love.

Join us on **Wednesday, March 17, from 4-6pm** to get an introduction to coastal processes and habitats, with a specific focus on Island County. Additionally, this workshop will provide breakout sessions focused on your specific type of shoreline (high bluff, medium bank, or low-no bank). [Register here!](#)



## Programmatic Updates

### [Island Local Integrating Organization \(ILIO\)](#)

The next ILIO Technical Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, March 9 from 1-3pm via Zoom.

The Island LIO is pleased to welcome four new members:

Krista Loercher is joining the ILIO Technical Committee as the Business/Port Representative. She is the owner of Whidbey Island Kayaking, which does tours from Penn Cove to Possession Point. She is also a South Whidbey Parks and Recreation Commissioner. We are excited to have Krista join us and bring her knowledge and expertise to our group.

Melanie Bacon, Island County Commissioner for District 1, Jack Ng, Port of South Whidbey Commissioner, and David Day, Port of Coupeville Commissioner are new members on the ILIO Executive Committee.



**[2021 VIRTUAL PUGET SOUND DAYS ON THE HILL](#)**: Since we can't convene in person, this year's Puget Sound Days on the Hill will be a series of virtual events with the Washington congressional delegation, federal officials, and special guests. [Puget Sound](#)

[Partnership \(PSP\)](#) and the [Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission \(NWIFC\)](#) are hosting these events, which are currently scheduled on Fridays from 1-2:30pm PDT, April 23-May 21. Additional notes will be provided prior to each session. Puget Sound restoration and protection, salmon recovery efforts, climate change adaptation and mitigation, infrastructure, and other topics will be discussed. More details are coming; check [here](#) for the latest information.

Be sure to check [ILIO's website](#) for upcoming meeting agendas and minutes.

## **[Marine Resources Committee \(MRC\)](#)**

The next MRC meeting will be held Tuesday, April 6 from 3-5pm via Zoom.

We are pleased to welcome three new members to the MRC! Jill Lipoti, Ken Collins, and Alex Plumb were all appointed to the MRC in February. You can read more about their backgrounds and expertise on our "[About Us](#)" page.

Congratulations to Karis Barnes, recipient of the 2021 Jan Holmes Island County Coastal Volunteer of the Year award! Karis went above and beyond in her volunteer work at Deception Pass State Park this past summer. Her educational efforts and stewardship messaging helped reach over 20,000 visitors, leaving them with positive memories and nuggets of information about tide pool ecosystems. Read more about Karis and her volunteer work [here](#)!

Be sure to check [MRC's website](#) for upcoming meetings, agendas, and minutes.

## **[Salmon Recovery](#)**

The next Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee (SRTCC) meeting will be held Wednesday, March 17 from 1-3pm via Zoom.

SRTCC recently held virtual site visits for the two projects that are moving forward in the ranking process. Two members of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's Technical Review Panel attended to review the technical aspect of each project.

The first project is Hoypus Point Shoreline Restoration. This project, located on Washington Parks land in Deception Pass State Park, will remove approximately 350 linear feet of shoreline armor and up to 1/3 acre of fill to re-establish nearshore processes at Hoypus Point. The second project is Polnell Armor Removal. This project, located on the Seaplane base, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, will remove approximately 2,000 tons of armor rock and debris along 1,400 feet of shoreline, removal of fill and decommissioning of approximately 500 linear feet of road prism.

Be sure to check out the [Salmon Recovery website](#) for upcoming meeting agendas and minutes.

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# **Resources and Interesting Reads**

## **Funding Opportunities**

The [U.S. Department of Transportation](#) announced its 2021 round of the [Infrastructure for](#)

[Rebuilding America \(INFRA\) grant program](#). Its purpose is to fund transportation projects of national and regional significance that are in line with the Biden Administration's principles for national infrastructure projects that result in good-paying jobs, improve safety, apply transformative technology, and explicitly address climate change and racial equity. The deadline to apply is Friday, March 19. Visit [here](#) for more details, instructions, and information about upcoming webinars.

## Learn

The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) [Nearshore Habitat Program](#) recently released a long-term study of bull kelp forests in South Puget Sound, in collaboration with [Marine Agronomics](#) and [United States Geological Survey \(USGS\)](#). Findings are available [here](#) and [here](#), and a Storymap is available [here](#).



*Photo credit: Ear to the Ground (click photo for source)*

The [UW School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences](#) is putting on their Bevan Series of weekly seminars. This year's focus is on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. You can tune in live on Thursdays at 4:30pm or watch the recordings afterwards [here](#).

The [Washington State Department of Commerce](#) and state agency partners at the Departments of [Fish and Wildlife](#) and [Ecology](#) are hosting an [11-week webinar series on monitoring and adaptive management of critical areas and shorelines](#). The series will feature expert guest speakers, opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, tools, and resources to develop and enhance critical areas and shorelines monitoring and adaptive management. The next one, [Workshop 9 - Permit Implementation Monitoring Tools](#), will take place on Wednesday, March 10 at 9am.

The [Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program \(PSEMP\)](#) Nearshore Work Group and WDFW's [Estuary and Salmon and Restoration Program \(ESRP\)](#), is hosting the [2021 Nearshore Restoration Virtual Summit](#). It takes place over three weeks, and covers three topics. The Beaches topic will be Wednesday and Thursday, March 10-11, the Deltas topic will be Wednesday and Thursday, March 17-18, and the Embayments topics will be Wednesday and Thursday, March 24-25. Register [here](#).



## PUGET SOUND ECOSYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAM



*Schematic of contributors and end users for the Nearshore Restoration Summit and Synthesis*

The Washington [Coastal Training Program](#) is offering an interactive course, [Coastal Adaptation Planning Essentials](#), designed for coastal management practitioners who are just starting to address the challenges coastal communities are facing as a result of climate change. Participants will learn the foundational concepts of a five-step adaptation planning process over the course of two workshops. The first one will be Tuesday, March 23, and the second one will be Thursday, March 25. Both are from 9am-11am.

30 by 30 - President Biden has pledged to preserve 30% of US lands and waters by 2030. Can we do it? Read about it [here](#).



*West Beach, Whidbey Island. Photo Credit: Cory Prusha*

## Tools

The [National Congress of American Indians](#) (NCAI) released the [Tribal Food Sovereignty and Food Production Resource Directory](#). This provides a comprehensive collation of relevant funding resources and other sources of support available to individual Native food producers and tribal nations and organizations as they work to start, sustain, or grow their food production, sovereignty, and security efforts. Click [here](#) for an informational webinar recording.

## Act!

During the 2021 Legislative Session, [PSP](#) is offering multiple opportunities to help you stay informed about legislative activities that affect Puget Sound protection and recovery efforts. Visit [PSP's website](#) for Legislative Updates, the Legislative Calendar, and instructions for attending Legislative Information Call-In meetings with Jeff Parsons, Legislative Policy Director. The Call-In meetings take place Fridays from 11:30am to no later than 12:30pm, and will continue until May 7. You can also sign up to receive email updates [here](#).

The [Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership](#) (PNAMP) has announced that they are restarting the [Remote Sensing Forum](#) to support individuals and entities with equitable opportunities to learn and advance the use of remote sensing technologies and data for the research and management of aquatic ecosystems. It will take place on Tuesday, March 16 from 12:30-2pm. If you are interested in attending, please [fill out this survey](#) by March 14.



Photo credit: PNAMP (click photo for source)

## Event Rundown

Tuesday, March 9	The ILIO Technical Committee will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm.
Wednesday-Thursday, March 10-11	<a href="#">2021 Nearshore Restoration Virtual Summit: Beaches</a> will be held from 9:30am-2:30pm on Day 1, and 8:30am-12pm on Day 2.
Monday, March 15	Puget Sound Institute is hosting a presentation called <a href="#">Are summer low flows increasing in Puget Sound streams?</a> from 10-11am.
Tuesday, March 16	Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP) is restarting the <a href="#">Remote Sensing Forum</a> , from 12:30-2pm.
Tuesday, March 16	Cascadia Coastal Hazards Research Coordination Network is hosting a seminar about <a href="#">RAPID data for coastal community hazard planning and resilience</a> from 2:30-3:30pm.

Wednesday, March 17	SRTCC will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm.
Wednesday, March 17	The Island County Shore Friendly Program, NWSF, and Island MRC is hosting a <a href="#">free virtual workshop</a> about coastal processes and habitats, focusing on Island County, from 4-6pm.
Wednesday- Thursday, March 17-18	<a href="#">2021 Nearshore Restoration Virtual Summit: Deltas</a> will be held from 8:30am-4pm on Day 1, and 8:30am-12:15pm on Day 2.
Monday March 22	University of Washington Puget Sound Institute is hosting a seminar entitled <a href="#">Voices Unbound: Amplifying perspectives of disenfranchised communities to provoke environmental change</a> at 10am.
Tuesday & Thursday, March 23 & 25	<a href="#">Coastal Adaptation Planning Essentials</a> workshop will be held from 9-11am.
Wednesday- Thursday, March 24-25	<a href="#">2021 Nearshore Restoration Virtual Summit: Embayments</a> will be held from 12:30-3:30 on Day 1, and 9:30am-12:30pm on Day 2.
Wednesday- Thursday, March 31- April 1	Ocean Visions and partners are hosting the <a href="#">Coastal Solutions Workshop - Coastal Flood Modeling, Predication, and Observations for the U.S. West Coast</a> workshop. It will be held from 10:30am-2:30pm on Day 1 and 9:30am-12:30pm on Day 2.
Tuesday, April 6	The Island County MRC will meet via Zoom from 3-5pm.
Tuesday, April 20	<a href="#">The Marine Social Science Network: Promoting understanding of people's relationship with the sea</a> webinar will be held at 9am PDT.

Thank you for your interest in Island County Natural Resources.

For more information, contact Ann Prusha: [a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov) or 360-678-2347.

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# Natural Resources Newsletter

April 2021

## Announcements

### [Meet the Island County Natural Resources Team!](#)

Please join Island County staff in discussing the wide range of services provided by your local natural resources team! From soil to stream to shoreline, factors such as noxious weeds, septic systems, and bulkheads can play a significant role in watershed health. During this 90 minute interactive webinar, panelists will discuss how Island County Public Health is monitoring water quality and taking action to protect you from harmful pollutants in the local drinking water, shellfish beds, and beloved beaches! This event will take place virtually on Thursday, April 15 from 11am to 12:30pm. Please visit [this link](#) for free registration.

## ISLAND COUNTY IS CELEBRATING EARTH MONTH!



Please join us as we discuss the many ways your local government is working to keep the environment healthy and safe for everyone. Mini-presentations will be followed by a Q&A with our panelists below.

**When:** April 15th from 11:00am-12:30pm

The event will be held virtually using Zoom. The webinar link and optional pre-registration is available below and on the Island County Natural Resources webpage.



Ann Prusha, Environmental Health Specialist- Learn how to use the Washington State Department of Health's Shellfish Safety Map. She will also address some of the frequently asked questions about recreational shellfish harvesting.

Anna Toledo, Watershed Planner- Learn how you can receive information and technical assistance for Shore Friendly alternatives to hard armoring that provide both the use and enjoyment of shoreline property while also protecting the shoreline habitats and species we love. Anna will also share about volunteer work being done through the Marine Resources Committee to protect and restore our local marine resources.



Seth Luginbill, Noxious Weed Program Coordinator- Learn how invasive species affect a wide array of habitats but can be particularly detrimental when found in aquatic and marine environments. We will discuss prevalent invasive aquatic/marine species here in Island County, how to ID these species, and best management practices for controlling them.

Matt Colston & Jenny Schofield, Surface Water Quality Monitoring Team- Learn about Island County's Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program and pollution identification and correction efforts. We will be joined by Nolan Simmons from our On-Site Septic Program to discuss how our every day actions affect our waterways.



**Register Here:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_RqbrgfaGSFq9QGeGivL\\_6w](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RqbrgfaGSFq9QGeGivL_6w)

## Programmatic Updates

### [Island Local Integrating Organization \(ILIO\)](#)

The next ILIO Technical Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, April 13 from 1-3pm via Zoom.

Check out the [Human Wellbeing explorer map](#) created by [Oregon State University](#) to visualize survey responses about human well-being in the Puget Sound.



**2021 VIRTUAL PUGET SOUND DAYS ON THE HILL:** Since we can't convene in person, this year's Puget Sound Days on the Hill will be a series of virtual events with the Washington congressional delegation, federal officials, and special guests. [Puget Sound Partnership](#) (PSP) and the [Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission](#) (NWIFC) are hosting these events, which are currently scheduled on Fridays from 1-2:30pm PDT, April 23-May 21. Additional notes will be provided prior to each session. Puget Sound restoration and protection, salmon recovery efforts, climate change adaptation and mitigation, infrastructure, and other topics will be discussed. Check [here](#) for the latest information.

Be sure to check [ILIO's website](#) for upcoming meeting agendas and minutes.

## **Marine Resources Committee (MRC)**

The next MRC meeting will be held Tuesday, May 4 from 3-5pm via Zoom.

Check out the "[Make a Difference](#)" column in the *Whidbey Weekly*, written by MRC's own Barbara Bennett! You can read it on page 9.

The MRC and [Sound Water Stewards](#) hosted a training on utilizing the [MyCoast app](#), a cell phone application to track and report beach change and nearshore hazards to enhance awareness among decision-makers and stakeholders. Check out the recorded training [here](#).

Coming soon...supported by the MRC and other local orgs, citizen scientists recently wrapped up a 10-year study about the distribution of eelgrass beds in Island County. A visually striking Storymap highlighting their work, and the importance of eelgrass beds, will be available in the near future.

MRC's Forage Fish monitoring teams are getting back out on the beach, **and the program is looking for more volunteers!** Monitoring for forage fish eggs provides important data that contributes to the health of marine life. If volunteering to be a part of this citizen science effort is something that piques your interest, please contact with Ann Prusha at [a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov) or 360-678-2347.



*Volunteers use a "blue bowl" to separate forage fish eggs from beach substrate.*

Be sure to check [MRC's website](#) for upcoming meetings, agendas, and minutes.

## **Salmon Recovery**

The next Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee (SRTCC) meeting will be held Wednesday, April 21 from 1-3pm via Zoom.

SRTCC is pleased to announce that Barbara Brock (Co-Chair), Tom Vos, and John Lovie will be serving another term on SRTCC! They bring a wealth of knowledge, experience, and perspective. Thank you for your continued service.

Final project scoring for the two projects moving forward in the ranking process, Hoypus Point Shoreline Restoration and Polnell Armor Removal, will take place in May.

Be sure to check out the [Salmon Recovery website](#) for upcoming meeting agendas and minutes.

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# Resources and Interesting Reads

## Funding Opportunities

The [Environmental Protection Agency's \(EPA\) Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving \(EJCPS\) Cooperative Agreement Program](#) and [Environmental Justice Small Grants \(EJSG\) Program](#) award grants that support community-driven projects designed to engage, educate, and empower communities to better understand local environmental and public health issues and develop strategies for addressing those issues, building consensus in the community, and setting community priorities. To learn more about pre-application assistance calls and how to apply for funding, follow the grant links above. Proposals are due by Friday, May 7.

[RADx-UP Coordination and Data Collection Center](#) is offering opportunities for mini-grants to help with COVID-19 testing initiatives. Learn more [here](#). Applications are due by Friday, April 16th.

The Monitoring to Accelerate Recovery Funding Opportunity, from the [Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program](#) (PSEMP), is a funding opportunity for collaborative projects as a mechanism by which the PSEMP and [Vital Signs](#) programs address priority monitoring information needs to inform adaptive management and accelerate recovery of Puget Sound. More information will be available on [PSEMP's website](#). Visit [here](#) for a presentation about this opportunity.

## Learn

Registration is now open [Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office's \(RCO\) Salmon Recovery Conference](#). The theme is *Building a Movement*, and it takes place Wednesday-Friday, April 28-30. Register [here](#).



A Chinook salmon pictured in Oregon's McKenzie River. Morgan Bond ([click image for source page](#))

The San Juan MRC and Salish Sea Institute hosted a webinar on the impacts of jet noise in the region. See the recording [here](#).

The *Environmental Law Reporter* graciously arranged to make [this article by Charles Lee](#) publicly available free-of-charge. The article explains environmental justice and how to push these concepts forward.

Nearly 30% of Puget Sound's shoreline has some sort of armoring meant to protect beaches from erosion. However, many of these structures are ineffective and destroy critical habitat for sea life, including salmon. Learn more [here](#).



*An example of shoreline armoring. Photo: Jim Johannessen/Coastal Geologic Services*

## Act!

[Island County](#) and the [Washington State Department of Ecology](#) (Ecology) are accepting comments on a periodic review of Island County's Shoreline Master Plan (SMP) under RCW 90.58.080(4). Public comments will be accepted until Sunday, April 25. A joint local/state public hearing is set for Monday, April 12 at 2:00pm virtually via Starleaf (click [here](#)). The meeting ID is 428 487 0043. You can send comments to Island County planning staff at [CompPlan@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:CompPlan@islandcountywa.gov). Comments sent to the County will be forwarded to Ecology. Proposed amendments to the Island County SMP are available for review [here](#).

During the 2021 Legislative Session, [PSP](#) is offering multiple opportunities to help you stay informed about legislative activities that affect Puget Sound protection and recovery efforts. Visit [PSP's website](#) for Legislative Updates, the Legislative Calendar, and instructions for attending Legislative Information Call-In meetings with Jeff Parsons, Legislative Policy Director. The Call-In meetings take place Fridays from 11:30am to no later than 12:30pm, and will continue until May 7. You can also sign up to receive email updates [here](#).

## Event Rundown

Monday, April 12	A joint local/state public hearing will be held via Starleaf (click <a href="#">here</a> ) at 2pm regarding Island County's SMP update. The meeting ID is 428 487 0043.
Tuesday, April 13	The ILIO Technical Committee will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm.
Thursday, April 15	At 11am, Island County Natural Resources is hosting a 90-minute interactive webinar during which panelists will discuss the wide range of services provided by your local natural resources team. Register <a href="#">here</a> .
Tuesday, April 20	<a href="#">The Marine Social Science Network: Promoting understanding of people's relationship with the sea</a> webinar will be held at 9am PDT.
Tuesday, April 20	<a href="#">Washington State University Extension</a> is hosting a virtual seminar on Green Storm Water practices, featuring the bioretention area at the new Island County Camano Annex facility. Registration information is available <a href="#">here</a> .
Wednesday, April 21	SRTCC will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm.
Wednesday, April 28- Friday, April 30	RCO's Salmon Recovery Conference takes place. Register <a href="#">here</a> .
Tuesday, May 4	The Island County MRC will meet via Zoom from 3-5pm.

Thank you for your interest in Island County Natural Resources.

For more information, contact Ann Prusha: [a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov) or 360-678-2347.

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# Natural Resources Announcement

April 14, 2021

## [Meet the Island County Natural Resources Team!](#)

Please join Island County staff in discussing the wide range of services provided by your local natural resources team! From soil to stream to shoreline, factors such as noxious weeds, septic systems, and bulkheads can play a significant role in watershed health. During this 90 minute interactive webinar, panelists will discuss how Island County Public Health is monitoring water quality and taking action to protect you from harmful pollutants in the local drinking water, shellfish beds, and beloved beaches! This event will take place virtually on Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please visit the link below for free registration:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_RqbrgfaGSFq9QGeGivL\\_6w](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RqbrgfaGSFq9QGeGivL_6w)

## ISLAND COUNTY IS CELEBRATING EARTH MONTH!



Please join us as we discuss the many ways your local government is working to keep the environment healthy and safe for everyone. Mini-presentations will be followed by a Q&A with our panelists below.

**When:** April 15th from 11:00am-12:30pm

The event will be held virtually using Zoom. The webinar link and optional pre-registration is available below and on the Island County Natural Resources webpage.



Ann Prusha, Environmental Health Specialist- Learn how to use the Washington State Department of Health's Shellfish Safety Map. She will also address some of the frequently asked questions about recreational shellfish harvesting.

Anna Toledo, Watershed Planner- Learn how you can receive information and technical assistance for Shore Friendly alternatives to hard armoring that provide both the use and enjoyment of shoreline property while also protecting the shoreline habitats and species we love. Anna will also share about volunteer work being done through the Marine Resources Committee to protect and restore our local marine resources.



Seth Luginbill, Noxious Weed Program Coordinator- Learn how invasive species affect a wide array of habitats but can be particularly detrimental when found in aquatic and marine environments. We will discuss prevalent invasive aquatic/marine species here in Island County, how to ID these species, and best management practices for controlling them.

Matt Colston & Jenny Schofield, Surface Water Quality Monitoring Team- Learn about Island County's Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program and pollution identification and correction efforts. We will be joined by Nolan Simmons from our On-Site Septic Program to discuss how our every day actions affect our waterways.



**Register Here:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_RqbrgfaGSFq9QGeGivL\\_6w](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RqbrgfaGSFq9QGeGivL_6w)

For more information, please visit the [Island County Natural Resources page](#).

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# Natural Resources Newsletter

May 2021

## Announcements

### Thank you, Lori!

Lori Clark, fearless leader of the Island County Natural Resources team and ILIO Coordinator, is stepping down after nearly 15 years of service. Lori's team and Island County have benefited greatly from her hard work and dedication. We have all been inspired by her passion, ability to get meaningful work done, and commitment to protecting our air, water, and land. She will be greatly missed, and we wish her a wealth of happiness and success at her next endeavor!



# Programmatic Updates

## [Island Local Integrating Organization \(ILIO\)](#)

The ILIO Technical Committee will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, June 8 from 1-3pm via Zoom. The Executive Committee will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, May 26 from 10-11am via Zoom.

At the April Technical Committee meeting, the ILIO hosted a robust discussion about Forestry Practices in Island County in order to better understand challenges and opportunities for solutions. If you missed the meeting, you can read the summary [here](#).

The [Puget Sound Partnership](#) (PSP) Leadership Council approved [desired outcomes for Puget Sound recovery](#), which articulate what is needed to protect and restore habitat, improve water quality, protect the food web and imperiled species, prevent the worst effects of climate change, and ensure human wellbeing. This is open for public comment until Friday, June 25. [Click here](#) to access the draft list of strategies for achieving desired outcomes as well as instructions for providing feedback.



**[2021 VIRTUAL PUGET SOUND DAYS ON THE HILL](#)**: Since we can't convene in person, this year's Puget Sound Days on the Hill will be a series of virtual events with the Washington congressional delegation, federal officials, and special guests. PSP and the [Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission](#) (NWIFC) are hosting these events. The last one will be Friday, May 21, from 1-2:30pm. Additional notes will be provided prior to each session. Puget Sound restoration and protection, salmon recovery efforts, climate change adaptation and mitigation, infrastructure, and other topics will be discussed. Check [here](#) for the latest information.

Be sure to check [ILIO's website](#) for upcoming meeting agendas and minutes.

## [Marine Resources Committee \(MRC\)](#)

The MRC will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, June 1 from 3-5pm via Zoom.

**[Eelgrass Storymap](#)**: Supported by the MRC and other local organizations, community scientists recently wrapped up a 10-year study about the distribution of eelgrass beds in Island County. A visually striking Storymap highlighting their work and the importance of eelgrass beds is available [here](#).

After interacting with the Storymap, please fill out [this learning assessment](#) for a chance to win your very own copy of Sound Water Stewards' newest edition of *Getting to the Water's Edge on Whidbey & Camano Islands*. The assessment will close on June 4<sup>th</sup>, and the drawing will be held shortly after.



*Photo by Jan Kocian*

MRC's Forage Fish monitoring teams are getting back out on the beach, **and the program is looking for more volunteers!** Monitoring for forage fish eggs provides important data that contributes to the health of marine life. If volunteering to be a part of this community science effort is something that piques your interest, please contact Ann Prusha at [a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov) or 360-678-2347.

The MRC worked with the Seahorse Siesta community and the [Washington Department of Natural Resources' Marine Debris Removal Program](#) to organize a cleanup of over 70 tires and other marine debris along the shoreline west of the Seahorse Siesta restoration site. Thank you to the many amazing volunteers who helped in this effort!



*Volunteers helped remove over 70 tires near the Seahorse Siesta restoration site!*

Be sure to check [MRC's website](#) for upcoming meetings, agendas, and minutes.

## [Salmon Recovery](#)

The Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee (SRTCC) will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, June 16 from 1-3 pm via Zoom.

If you are able to provide a business perspective to salmon recovery, SRTCC can benefit greatly from your experience! SRTCC is looking for a member who is able to serve by helping the group view salmon recovery through a business/economic lens. Please contact Dawn Spilsbury Pucci at [d.pucci@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:d.pucci@islandcountywa.gov) if you or someone you know is interested in this opportunity.

Final project scoring for the two projects moving forward in the ranking process, Hoypus Point Shoreline Restoration and Polnell Armor Removal, took place at the May meeting.



*Hoypus Point (Northwest Straits Foundation)*

Be sure to check out the [Salmon Recovery website](#) for upcoming meeting information and minutes.

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## Resources and Interesting Reads

### Local News

The [Puget Sound Regional Council](#) was awarded a grant to help catalyze the development of new stormwater parks. These enhance communities by treating stormwater and providing recreational opportunities. Jurisdictions interested in receiving technical assistance in the development of new stormwater parks can learn more [here](#).

The new Island County Camano Administrative Building features a bioswale to help manage stormwater runoff and filter pollutants from surface and ground water sources. In [this presentation](#), Dr. Ani Jayakaran describes how stormwater runoff affects our environment, and how Green Stormwater and Low Impact Development (LID) practices use plants, soil, and microbes to treat stormwater and minimize the footprint that humans leave on the landscape. Master Gardeners from Washington State University Extension Island County also describe some of the plants featured and why you might use them in your landscape.

Creosote, a wood preservative, was widely used along shorelines in Washington. Today, we know about the threat it poses to salmon and humans. Click [here](#) to read about creosote cleanup efforts at Elger Bay salt marsh.



*Department of Natural Resources crews wave flags to a helicopter as they remove creosote-soaked logs from Elger Bay on Camano Island. (Andy Bronson / The Herald)*

## Learn

The [Water 100 Project](#), an initiative of the PSP and [The Nature Conservancy](#), is a new way to seek solutions for Puget Sound's water quality problems. This initiative includes

scientists, engineers and policymakers working together to identify the 100 most substantive solutions for a clean and resilient Puget Sound.

[Shore Friendly Living Episode 3 - Restoring the Connection Between Land and Water](#) is out! It is part of a video series made by the [Northwest Straits Foundation](#) (NWSF) in partnership with other [Shore Friendly](#) programs across Puget Sound.

Check out this documentary, [Engineering with Nature - sustainable solutions for a changing climate](#). It's about a restoration project in the largest watershed contained in Seattle, using an innovative green storm water infrastructure approach of rebuilding the hyporheic zone. The trailer is also available on the film's website.

On a recent issue of PSP's [Making Waves magazine](#), Laura Blackmore, PSP's Executive Director, interviewed [Governor Jay Inslee](#), [David Troutt](#), Natural Resources Director with the Nisqually Indian Tribe, and [Anji Moraes](#), Senior Program Officer with Vulcan Inc. about Puget Sound recovery, climate change, environmental justice, and infrastructure.

[San Juan County](#), in partnership with [Nuka Research & Planning Group LLC](#) and the [Puget Sound Institute Salish Sea Modeling Center](#), has completed the [Vessel Drift and Response Analysis for the Strait of Juan de Fuca to the Southern Strait of Georgia](#). For an overview, please refer to the [project factsheet](#).

This article, [The Incredible Link Between Nature and Your Emotions](#), highlights evidence that supports how important nature is for our wellbeing.

## Tools

The [University of Washington Climate Impacts Group](#) has released an [online tool](#) to help stormwater and wastewater managers in the Northwest design and operate with climate change in mind.

## Act!

Want an excuse to visit some amazing coastal sites? Check out NWSF's [Passport To Marine Adventure](#)! It's an interactive way to engage with the Salish Sea and its surrounding ecosystem. Visit coastal exploration sites, complete educational activities and win prizes as you explore the Salish Sea like never before.



## Event Rundown

<p>Tuesday, May 25</p>	<p>Cascadia Coastal Hazards Research Coordination Network is hosting a webinar called <a href="#">Probabilistic infrastructure damage, debris forecasting, and community resilience analysis for CSZ earthquake and tsunami applied to Seaside, Oregon</a> from 2:30-3:30pm.</p>
<p>Wednesday, May 26</p>	<p>The ILIO Executive Committee will meet via Zoom from 10-11am.</p>
<p>Wednesday, May 26</p>	<p>The Environmental Protection Agency's Water Research Webinar on <a href="#">Community-enabled Lifecycle Analysis of Stormwater Infrastructure Costs (CLASIC): Tool Functionality and Case Studies</a> will be held from 11am-12pm PDT.</p>
<p>Wednesday, May 26</p>	<p>The Environmental Law Institute is hosting a webinar called Integrating Nature-Based Goals in Hazard Mitigation Plans from 2-3:30pm. <a href="#">Participants must register by May 24.</a></p>
<p>Wednesday, May 26</p>	<p>The Salish Sea Institute and Western Washington University Alumni Association are hosting the State of the Salish Sea: Symposium #1 from 4-5:30pm. <a href="#">Register here.</a></p>
<p>Wednesday, May 26</p>	<p>Georgia Strait Alliance and Washington Sea Grant are hosting the <a href="#">Salish Sea Green Boating Happy Hour</a> from 5-6:30pm. Learn about clean boating practices, reduce boater impacts, and aid in the recovery of Southern Resident Orcas.</p>
<p>Thursday, May 27</p>	<p>Whidbey Camano Land Trust is hosting a webinar called <a href="#">Addressing Climate Change Through Conversation</a> at 6:30pm.</p>

Tuesday, June 1	The MRC will meet via Zoom from 3-5pm.
Tuesday, June 8	The ILIO Technical Committee will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm.
Wednesday, June 16	SRTCC will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm.

Thank you for your interest in [Island County Natural Resources](#).

For more information, contact Ann Prusha at [a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov) or 360-678-2347.

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# Natural Resources Announcement

May 14, 2021

## [Island County Marine Resources Committee has just published its Eelgrass Storymap!](#)

It's a story over 10 years in the making...

Back in 2007, a concerned resident noticed that the eelgrass beds near her home were disappearing. She decided to take action, and soon community scientists embarked on a ten-year research project to learn about the health and distribution of eelgrass beds in Island County, Washington.

[This Storymap](#) covers what eelgrass is and its role in our ecosystem, the research that this community science team conducted, the Island County Marine Resources Committee, and ways that you can help protect this critical habitat. It features stunning photography and relatable science in an immersive platform.

**[Check it out here!](#)**

After interacting with the Storymap, please fill out [this learning assessment](#) for a chance to win your very own copy of Sound Water Steward's newest edition of *Getting to the Water's Edge on Whidbey & Camano Islands*. The assessment will close on June 4<sup>th</sup>, and the drawing will be held shortly after.

**[Fill out the learning assessment here!](#)**



*Photography Credit: Jan Kocian*

For more information, please visit the Marine Resources Committee's Eelgrass Survey page.

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# Natural Resources Newsletter

June 2021

## Announcements

### [Shellfish Resources](#)

If you are interested in environmental justice and how it relates to [recreational shellfish harvesting](#), check out [this map](#). It was developed by a research team at [Oregon State University](#) to visualize survey responses on subjective human well-being in the Puget Sound in 2018 and 2020.



*Mussels. Photo credit: Washington State Department of Health*

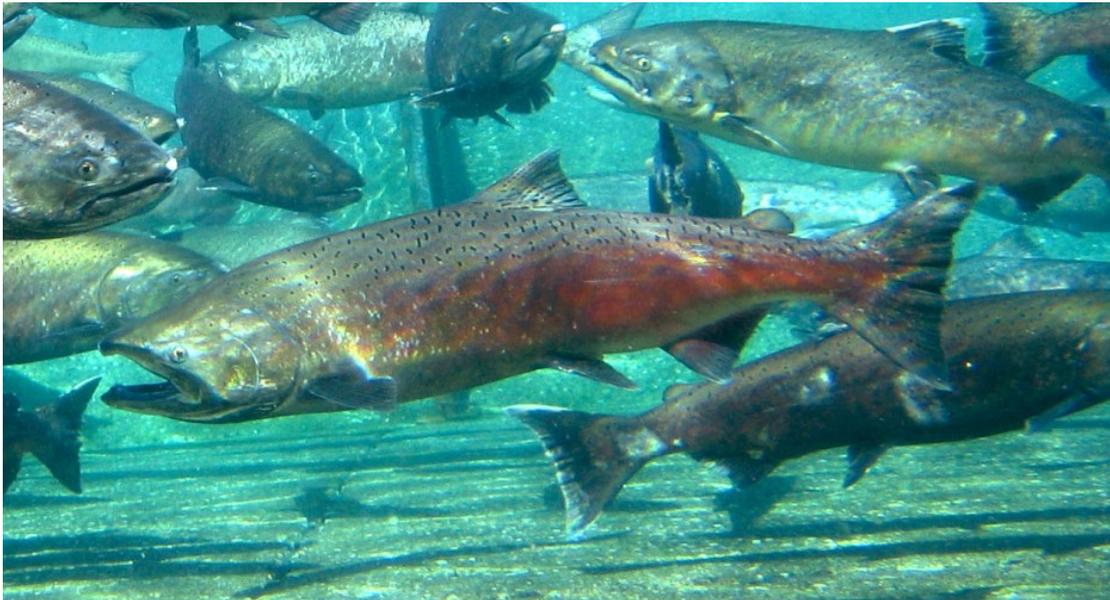
# Programmatic Updates

## [Island Local Integrating Organization \(ILIO\)](#)

The ILIO Technical Committee will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, July 13 from 1-3pm via Zoom.

The [Puget Sound Partnership](#) (PSP) Leadership Council approved [desired outcomes for Puget Sound recovery](#), which articulate what is needed to protect and restore habitat, improve water quality, protect the food web and imperiled species, prevent the worst effects of climate change, and ensure human wellbeing. This is open for public comment until Friday, June 25. [Click here](#) to access the draft list of strategies for achieving desired outcomes as well as instructions for providing feedback.

[The Toxics in Fish Strategy is out on the street!](#) After four years of highly collaborative work with a multitude of partners, the Toxics in Fish Implementation Strategy has been published by the [Stormwater Strategic Initiative Lead](#) Team. It can be found in PSP's [Public Box](#). This includes all appendices, narratives, and supporting science and state of knowledge documentation.



*Photo credit: Washington Stormwater Center (click image for source page)*

Check out [ILIO's website](#) for meeting agendas and minutes.

## [Marine Resources Committee \(MRC\)](#)

The MRC will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, July 6 from 3-5pm via Zoom.

Check out [this Make a Difference Column article](#) in *Whidbey Weekly*, written by MRC's own Andi Kopit! In this article, Andi provides information about plastics, and ways to reduce plastic waste. She also gives instructions for a fun family activity that you can do while cleaning up the beach.

Bull kelp monitoring season is here! Bull kelp (*Nereocystis luetkeana*) forests are important habitats for all types of marine animals. Endangered and threatened species, such as pinto abalone and yelloweye rockfish, depend on bull kelp forests for shelter and

nutrients. Animals critical to the food web, such as herring, use bull kelp forests for protection and food during certain life stages. Each year during the bull kelp growing season, volunteers map these bull kelp forests and collect data. Learn more [here](#).



*Bull Kelp Monitoring. Photo credit: Kelly Zupich*

MRC's Forage Fish monitoring teams are getting back out on the beach, **and the program is looking for more volunteers!** Monitoring for forage fish eggs provides important data that contributes to the health of marine life. If volunteering to be a part of this community science effort is something that piques your interest, please contact Ann Prusha at [a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov) or 360-678-2347.

Be sure to check [MRC's website](#) for upcoming meetings, agendas, and minutes.

## **[Salmon Recovery](#)**

The Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee (SRTCC) will hold its next meeting on at 1pm on Wednesday, July 21 at Cornet Bay.

If you are able to provide a business perspective to salmon recovery, SRTCC can benefit greatly from your experience! SRTCC is looking for a member who is able to serve by helping the group view salmon recovery through a business/economic lens. Please contact Dawn Spilsbury Pucci at [d.pucci@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:d.pucci@islandcountywa.gov) if you or someone you know is interested in this opportunity.

Be sure to check out the [Salmon Recovery website](#) for meeting information and minutes.

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## **Resources and Interesting Reads**

## Local News

The U.S. House of Representatives voted to pass the Promoting United Government Efforts to Save Our Sound (PUGET SOS) Act of 2021. The PUGET SOS Act would enhance the federal government's role and investment in Puget Sound, the nation's largest estuary by volume. Read all about it [here](#).

Following an extremely dry couple of months, the [Washington State Department of Ecology](#) (Ecology) issued a drought advisory for most of Washington state in May. As we head into the summer, you can read about state drought conditions [here](#).

## Funding Opportunities

The [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) (WDFW) is has announced its inaugural [Watchable Wildlife Grant program](#) for individuals, non-profits, schools, and local and county governments. WDFW will accept grant applications for projects that create, improve, increase, and/or promote opportunities for communities to view wildlife. Applications are due by Sunday, July 25.

Washington counties, cities, and towns with a Shoreline Master Program will be eligible to apply for the Shoreline Master Program Competitive Grant Pilot Program through Ecology. The application period opens on September 1, and more information will be made available before then. There will be two optional pre-application workshops. The first will be Tuesday, July 13 at 10:30am (register [here](#)), and the second will be Thursday, August 12 at 1pm (register [here](#)).

## Learn

The [Northwest Straits Foundation](#) (NWSF) and WDFW are hosting a free online crabbing workshop on Wednesday, June 30 from 6-7pm. Register [here](#).



*Image from NWSF*

The [University of Washington \(UW\) Tacoma](#) is hosting a virtual [International Conference on Emerging Contaminants \(EMCON\) conference](#) focused on emerging contaminants occurrence, fate, transport, and effects on Monday-Tuesday, September 13-14. It will cover stormwater, roadway runoff, microplastics, and 6PPD, and other Pacific Northwest topics. Learn more and register [here](#).

Did you miss the Washington State Municipal Stormwater Conference this year? You can still watch all the sessions [here](#). The [Washington Stormwater Center](#) also has a [YouTube Channel](#) with a wealth of content.

In May, the [Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force](#) sponsored a Salish Sea Green Boating Webinar. You can [watch the recorded webinar here](#).

"Communicating the effects of climate change such as sea level rise can be a daunting task, especially when the change is gradual and the most severe impacts are still years away." Read [this article](#) to learn about how researchers use virtual reality to show the dangers of sea level rise in Santa Cruz, California.

## Act!

The virtual [Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference](#) will be held virtually in April of 2022. They will be making a call for submissions this summer. Visit [here](#) for more details.

Want an excuse to visit some amazing coastal sites? Check out NWSF's [Passport To Marine Adventure](#)! It's an interactive way to engage with the Salish Sea and its surrounding ecosystem. Visit coastal exploration sites, complete educational activities and win prizes as you explore the Salish Sea like never before.



## Event Rundown

Wednesday, June 30	NWSF and WDFW are hosting a free online crabbing workshop from 6-7pm. Register <a href="#">here</a> .
Tuesday, July 6	The MRC will meet via Zoom from 3-5pm.
Tuesday, July 13	The ILIO Technical Committee will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm.
Wednesday, July 21	SRTCC will meet at Cornet Bay at 1pm.
Monday & Tuesday, September 13 & 14	UW Tacoma is hosting a <a href="#">virtual EMCON conference</a> .

Thank you for your interest in Island County Natural Resources.

For more information, contact Ann Prusha at [a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov) or 360-678-2347.

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# Natural Resources Newsletter

August 2020

## Announcements

### Lakes Monitoring Presentation and Volunteer Opportunity

On August 9, Island County Natural Resources Staff presented to the community about the growing concern of harmful cyanobacteria in our community. [Click here](#) to see the presentation.

We will be monitoring cyanobacteria blooms, bacteria, and temperature for three Island County Lakes: Goss Lake and Lone Lake in Langley, and Deer Lake in Clinton. **If you are interested in participating in the Island County Lakes Monitoring Program, please contact Matthew Colston at [m.colston@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:m.colston@islandcountywa.gov).**

### Asian Giant Hornet Trapping Volunteer Opportunity

Working with the [Washington State Department of Agriculture](#) (WSDA), Island County Natural Resources has several monitoring sites for the Asian Giant Hornet (*Vespa mandarinia*) across Island County. We encourage anyone who is interested in posting traps to contact Cassie Cichorz at [CCichorz@agr.wa.gov](mailto:CCichorz@agr.wa.gov) or Matthew Colston at [m.colston@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:m.colston@islandcountywa.gov). We hope to work with the community to ensure that this invasive species stay confined to Northwestern Washington. For more information about the ongoing project, please check out this [link](#).



*Size comparison of an Asian giant hornet and a honey bee. Image source: United States Department of Agriculture*

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## Committee Updates

### [Island Local Integrating Organization \(ILIO\)](#)

The ILIO Technical Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 14 from 1-3pm via Zoom, and the Executive Committee will meet on Wednesday, August 25 from 10-11am via Zoom.

Check out [this Puget Sound Institute article](#) to learn about how the [Puget Sound Partnership](#) (PSP) is working to incorporate human wellbeing and environmental justice into its work.

The PSP 2022-2026 Action Agenda development is wrapping up Phase 3 – Strategy Development, and beginning to move to Phase 4 – Developing actions and commitments that align with strategies.

ILIO is currently working on updating Island County's Ecosystem Recovery Plan.

Check out [ILIO's website](#) for meeting information.

### [Marine Resources Committee \(MRC\)](#)

The next MRC meeting will be held Tuesday, September 7 from 3-5pm via Zoom.

Catch More Crab! On the opening day of the crabbing season, volunteers at Camano Island State Park, Cornet Bay Boat Launch, Langley Marina, and Oak Harbor Marina distributed [Catch More Crab](#) materials. An estimated 12,000 pots are lost in Puget Sound each year, which continue to capture crab with no one to harvest them. Following the recommendations below will help you to protect the environment while increasing your crab harvest!

**CATCH MORE CRAB!**

**Did you know 12,000 crab pots are lost in Puget Sound each year?**

*Check out these seven helpful tips to prevent your crab pot from becoming one of them!*

- **Avoid high traffic**, marine transit and ferry lanes.
- **Check tides and currents.** Avoid crabbing during strong tidal changes and currents.
- **Make buoys more visible.** Add a second buoy or a stick and flag.
- **Use a weighted line** to sink below the surface and avoid being cut by passing boats.
- **Weight your crab pots** so they do not move with currents or tidal changes.
- **Use longer line.** Use 1/3 more line than the water depth to allow for changes in tides and currents.
- **Secure lid and escape panels with cotton (biodegradable) escape cord.** Crabs can escape from lost pots after the cord degrades.

*Enter to win new crabbing gear by completing this short survey: <http://goo.gl/fiwvhXB>*

for more information visit  
**[derelictgear.org](http://derelictgear.org)**

**Northwest Straits INITIATIVE**  
*partners in marine conservation*

Speaking of crabbing, the [Northwest Straits Foundation](#) (NWSF) and [Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) (WDFW) hosted a crabber workshop, including rules, regulations, tips, and tricks to catch more crab. Check out the workshop's recording [here](#).

Be sure to check [MRC's website](#) for meeting information.

## [Salmon Recovery](#)

The Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee (SRTCC) will meet on Wednesday, September 15 from 1-3pm via Zoom.

If you are able to provide a business perspective to salmon recovery, SRTCC can benefit greatly from your experience! SRTCC is looking for a member who is able to serve by helping the group view salmon recovery through a business/economic lens. Please contact Dawn Spilsbury Pucci at [d.pucci@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:d.pucci@islandcountywa.gov) if you or someone you know is interested in this opportunity.

Be sure to check out the [Salmon Recovery website](#) for meeting information.

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## Resources and Interesting Reads

### Local News

WDFW updated the [terrestrial bird population abundance indicator](#), which monitors species that live in forest interiors or that are associated with humans. This is the first time reporting on this indicator, which informs the [Birds Vital Sign](#). Unfortunately, the progress of this indicator is "getting worse."

During the 2020 legislative session, Washington State Legislature passed a [statewide ban on single-use plastic bags](#), an effort to reduce plastic pollution, litter, and waste. The bag ban goes into effect on Friday, October 1. Read more [here!](#)

### Funding Opportunities

Washington counties, cities, and towns with a Shoreline Master Program will be eligible to apply for the [Shoreline Master Program Competitive Grant Pilot Program](#) through the [Washington State Department of Ecology](#) (Ecology). The application period opens on Wednesday, September 1 and closes Thursday, October 14.

The application period for the [Federal Emergency Management Agency's \(FEMA\) Flood Mitigation Assistance \(FMA\) grant program](#) and the new [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\) grant program](#) will open on Thursday, September 30 and close on Friday, January 28, 2022. To learn more about these programs, check out [this Webinar Series](#), which runs until Wednesday, October 13.

### Learn

In March, the [Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Project's \(PSEMP\) Nearshore Work Group](#) and WDFW's [Estuary and Salmon and Restoration Program \(ESRP\)](#) hosted the Nearshore Restoration Summit. About 80 speakers representing over 50 institutions presented to more than 500 registrants online. Discussions focused on Puget Sound beach, delta, and embayment shore forms. Presentations were recorded and are available [here](#).

Check out [this Storymap](#) from the [Puget Sound Restoration Fund](#), all about exploring Puget Sound's kelp forests.

Ecology's [Spill Prevention, Preparedness and Response Program](#) has released a new report: [Vessel Activity Synopsis: Maritime activity in the Northern Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca](#). This synopsis combines multiple data sources and analysis methods to provide a holistic view of 2018 vessel activity in the Salish Sea and to highlight areas and timeframes where vessel activities overlap.

### Act!

The virtual [Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference](#) will be held virtually the week of April 25, 2022. They will be making a call for submissions this summer. Visit [here](#) for more details.

PSEMP's Steering Committee is seeking new members. Applications are due by Sunday, August 29. [Click here](#) for more details.

Want an excuse to visit some amazing coastal sites? Check out NWSF's [Passport To Marine Adventure!](#) It's an interactive way to engage with the Salish Sea and its surrounding ecosystem. Visit coastal exploration sites, complete educational activities and win prizes as you explore the Salish Sea like never before.



## Event Rundown

Wednesday, August 25	The ILIO Executive Committee will meet via Zoom from 10-11am.
Thursday, August 26	WSU Extension is hosting a webinar: Healthy Forest Understories and the Weeds that Get in the Way. Register <a href="#">here</a> .
Tuesday, August 31	The Pacific States/British Columbia Task Force is hosting a 90-minute webinar entitled " <a href="#">Renewable fuels — Fundamentals, Future and Response Planning</a> " from 10:30am-12pm.
Tuesday, September 7	The MRC will meet via Zoom from 3-5pm.
Wednesday, September 8	Ecology is hosting a free <a href="#">Marine Mammal Management in Oil Spill Response</a> workshop at 8am.
Tuesday, September 14	The ILIO Technical Committee will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm.
Monday & Tuesday, September 13 & 14	UW Tacoma is hosting a <a href="#">virtual EMCON conference</a> .

Wednesday, September 15	SRTCC will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm.
Wednesday, October 6	The Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner is hosting the 2021 Climate Summit. <a href="#">Register here.</a>
Tuesday & Wednesday, October 29 & 20	Restore America's Estuaries and partners are hosting <a href="#">The 2021 Living Shorelines Tech Transfer Workshop.</a>

Thank you for your interest in [Island County Natural Resources](#).

For more information, contact Ann Prusha: [a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov).

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# Natural Resources Announcement

September 24, 2021

**Please join Island County Marine Resources Committee and Whidbey Island Conservation District to help perform vegetation maintenance at a beautiful restoration site!**

## When/Where

Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-2:00pm

Cornet Bay, Deception Pass State Park

## How to Sign Up

We are limiting participation to 10 volunteers, at a first-come-first-serve basis. We apologize for any inconveniences this may cause. Please sign up as soon as possible.

The first 10 (ten) people to sign up will receive detailed directions and more information before the event. All others will be placed on a waiting list, in the event one of the first 10 (ten) need to cancel their sign-up, for any reason.

Sign up here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/58ee131d2e384676b6d9404363044fb7>

## What to Expect

We will be removing weeds, rain or shine, from the newest phase of the restoration project. Light refreshments will be provided.

**We hope to see you sign up! If you have any questions, please contact Ann Prusha at [a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov) or Gwendolyn Hannam at [WICD@whidbeycd.org](mailto:WICD@whidbeycd.org).**

**[Sign Up Here!](#)**

For more information, please contact [Ann Prusha](#).

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