



# Island County

Serving the communities of Camano & Whidbey Islands

## January 2023 Natural Resources Newsletter

Island County, Washington sent this bulletin at 01/26/2023 08:00 AM PST

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# Natural Resources Newsletter

January 2023

## Announcements

### Conservation Futures Program is Accepting Applications for its 2023 Cycle

The Conservation Futures Program is funded by a local property tax. The Conservation Futures property tax is used for land protection and stewardship to preserve the irreplaceable character of unique, distinctive lands and to protect habitat.

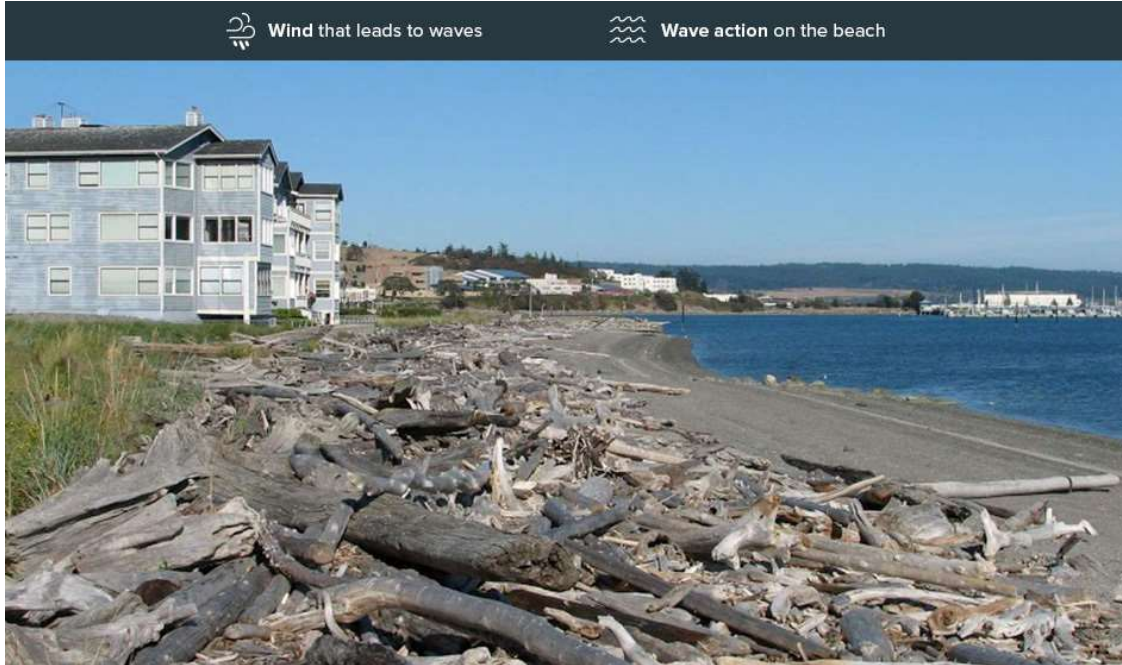
The organizations that are eligible to receive Conservation Futures grants include Island County government, cities, towns, special purpose districts, non-profit nature conservancy organizations (as defined in RCW 84.34.250), and non-profit historic preservation organizations (as defined in RCW 64.04.130).

For more information about applications and funding, click [here!](#)

### Shore Friendly Program

Do you live on the shoreline? Do you have concerns about keeping your bluff stable or otherwise protecting your property? If so, the Shore Friendly program is here to help! The goal of the Island County Shore Friendly project is to promote alternative strategies for shoreline residential properties that provide both the use and enjoyment of the property while promoting and maintaining the nearshore ecosystems for the support of fish and

wildlife. Sign up [here](#) to request a **free** technical site visit! You can learn more about the program by visiting [here](#).



*Image Credit: Hugh Shipman from Shore Friendly Organization Website*

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## Programmatic Updates

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

The next ILIO meetings will be held on February 14, 2023 and on March 14, 2023 from 1:00PM-3:00PM via Zoom.

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

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

The next MRC meeting will be held on February 7, 2023 from 3:00PM-5:00PM via Zoom. Meetings are open to the public!

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 on February 15, 2023 via Zoom. If you would like to join the meeting, contact Clea Barenburg at [c.barenburg@islandcountywa.gov](mailto:c.barenburg@islandcountywa.gov).

Be sure to check out the [Island County Salmon Recovery Website](#) for upcoming meetings, agendas, and minutes.

## Local News

### Governor's 2023-2025 Salmon Budget

The Governor's Office recently released the Proposed 2023-25 Budget and Policy Highlights document. The following PDF shows the Governor's proposed budget for salmon, which goes into detail about a riparian program, stormwater, fish passage, 6PPD-q, fish passage and funding for Floodplains by Design and much more. For more info click [here!](#)



*Image Credit: Sound Water Stewards*

## Funding Opportunities

### Pacific Marine and Estuarine Habitat Partnership

PMEP is seeking project proposals that restore, enhance, or protect habitats for PMEP focal species within nearshore marine and estuarine systems (with an emphasis on habitat connectivity) or proposals that increase our understanding of fish habitats in estuarine and nearshore marine waters. PMEP funding can be used for all phases of a project, from feasibility to post-construction monitoring. However, projects that involve on-the-ground implementation will be more competitive.

**Grant Proposals Due February 17, 2023.** For more information and how to apply, please click [here!](#)

## Learn

### Sound Waters University

Join us and distinguished environmental authors, change agents, researchers, and naturalists who will be presenting virtually on **Saturday, February 4, 2023 from 8:30 am – 3:30 pm PST** via Zoom webinar. For more information and how to register, please click [here!](#)

### Washington DNR Eelgrass and Kelp Recovery Workshops

DNR is developing a [statewide Plan](#) to identify and prioritize areas for conservation and restoration activities throughout the Puget Sound and along the Washington Coastline. To inform the Plan, DNR is offering a series of five workshops through a combined virtual and in-person approach as follows:

- Kelp and Eelgrass Virtual Kick-Off Workshop on **January 31, 2023 from 5:00PM-7:30PM**. To learn more and to RSVP, click [here!](#)
- March Workshops (Virtual and In-Person) - These will be focused geographically on the Puget Sound and Washington Coastline to gather input on region-specific values and priorities. Sign up for DNR's kelp and eelgrass [mailing list](#) to receive updates on these workshops!

## Resources and Interesting Reads

### Washington's Water Quality Management Plan to Control Nonpoint Sources of Pollution

As of January 2023, Washington State's Department of Ecology has updated the "Nonpoint Plan" with EPA. To learn about the update process, including public comment and responses, Voluntary Clean Water Guidance for Agriculture Chapters, and more, click [here!](#)

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Thank you for your interest in Island County Natural Resources.

For more information, contact Michala Milewski:

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