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Serving the communities of Camano & Whidbey Islands

April 2020 Natural Resources Newsletter

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Natural Resources

Newsletter

April 2020

Announcements

COVID-19 Update

It has certainly been an intense month! We hope you and yours are safe. Island County Public Health staff, including Natural Resources, has had to limit work on committees in order to accommodate the COVID-19 response efforts. We appreciate your patience, understanding, and flexibility during this time.

For COVID-19 resources and updates, please visit [Island County Public Health's COVID-19 webpage](#). We wish the best to all of you, and are very thankful to be part of such a strong, resourceful community.

Surface Water 5K Runoff Postponed!

Island County's Surface Water Runoff 5k and fun run event was scheduled for Saturday, May 16, and has been postponed due to COVID-19. There will be more information to come - we'll provide an update as soon as we can!



Funding Opportunities

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has announced the [National Coastal Resilience Fund Request for Proposals \(RFP\)](#) for 2020. Pre-proposals are due Wednesday, April 8th!

The 2020 [Estuary and Salmon Restoration \(ESRP\) grant competition](#) is open! The pre-application window has been extended to Wednesday, April 15. Submit your pre-proposal to PRISM by then. Check out the ESRP All-Grants webinar recording [here](#).

The [National Fish Habitat Partnership](#) has announced a new Small Grants Program for 2020, thanks to a \$50,000 contribution from Bass Pro Shops. All 20 Fish Habitat Partnerships under the National Fish Habitat Partnership are eligible to apply. Submit a project application to Ryan Roberts at roberts@fishwildlife.org by 5pm on Thursday, April 16.

Check out this [tool](#) from the Washington Fund Directory! It's a one-stop funding directory for local governments seeking state funding.

Puget Sound Info has a list of [funding sources](#) for Puget Sound recovery activities.

Programmatic Updates

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

The ILIO Technical Committee will meet via WebEx Tuesday, April 14 from 1-3pm.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has extended the deadline for LIO Direct Award recommendations to Wednesday, May 20. The deadline to finalize their investments and notify EPA is still Tuesday, June 30.

The Stormwater Strategic Implementation Lead (SIL), in conjunction with its Advisory Team (SIAT), is hosting a call-in workshop on Wednesday, April 29 for rural jurisdictions. It's designed to produce detailed strategies for stormwater management needs (what, who, where, when, how and why). The workshop will address planning, staffing, access to needed tools and research, and the unique conditions that face our communities. If you are interested in participating, please contact Lori Clark at l.clark@islandcountywa.gov or 360-679-7352.

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

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

While MRC activities are limited at this time, we encourage you to learn more about the MRC and our projects on our website: islandcountymrc.org. You can learn about Island County's nearshore ecosystem and the work of the MRC in a 17-minute film produced by Florian Graner, featuring some MRC members and project partners. Check it out on our [About Us](#) page.

The MRC is partnering with [Sound Water Stewards](#) (SWS) to bring online educational resources about the marine environment to local students. The educational film "[Discover Our Island Shores](#)" produced by Florian Graner will be available to students during the week around Earth Day, and students will be invited to enter an art and essay contest. Voting on the top entries will be available through the [MRC](#) and [SWS](#) websites in May!

MRC's April meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will take place via WebEx on May 5 from 3-5pm.

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

Salmon Recovery

The Island County Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizens Committee (SRTCC) hosted the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's Technical Review Panel for site visits in early March. The Review Panel heard from project sponsors about proposals requesting grant funding. Scoring by SRTCC will take place in April with final rankings completed in May.

The next SRTCC meeting will be held via WebEx Wednesday, April 15 from 1-3pm.

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

Resources and Interesting Reads

Local News

We can still celebrate Whidbey Earth and Ocean Month - visit this [virtual festival](#) of resources and links.

The Whidbey-Camano Land Trust permanently protected a [beautiful forested wetland](#) on Central Whidbey!

Learn

Did you know that you can make beer from kelp? Have you ever tried seaweed pasta? Did you know seaweed can combat Ocean Acidification? Learn more during a [podcast](#) about Seaweed Farming on the Coastal Cafe with Dr. Meg Chasdey.

Watch this [herring spawning video](#) - it's a short video of newly hatched herring. See below for a photo of these cuties!

The Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF) has created a video series called [Salish SeaFresh - From Tide to Table](#). It explores the relationships among habitat restoration,

sustainable seafood, and local businesses.

Have some extra free time? Recordings of [this 4-part webinar series](#) about using Marine Shoreline Design Guidelines to Improve Shoreline Stabilization Permitting are available.

Check out the new [Washington Coastal Hazards Resilience Network \(CHRN\) website!](#) They welcome your feedback for improvements through this [survey](#).

The American Planning Association in partnership with the Association of State Floodplain Managers issued this excellent report on [Planning for Infrastructure Resilience](#). While it is national in scope the document contains excellent resources applicable to our region.

Tools

Check out this [Coastal Risk Screening Tool](#) from Climate Central! This new platform for maps depicts sea level rise and coastal flood risk in an easy-to-use interface.

Act!

The Department of Ecology is seeking public input on draft revisions to [Water Quality Policy 1-11, Chapter 1: Assessment of Water Quality for the Clean Water Act Sections 303\(d\) and 305\(b\) Integrated Report](#). Please provide feedback by Thursday, April 30. There will be a statewide [webinar](#) to explain the draft revisions and answer questions on Wednesday, April 22 at 1:30pm.

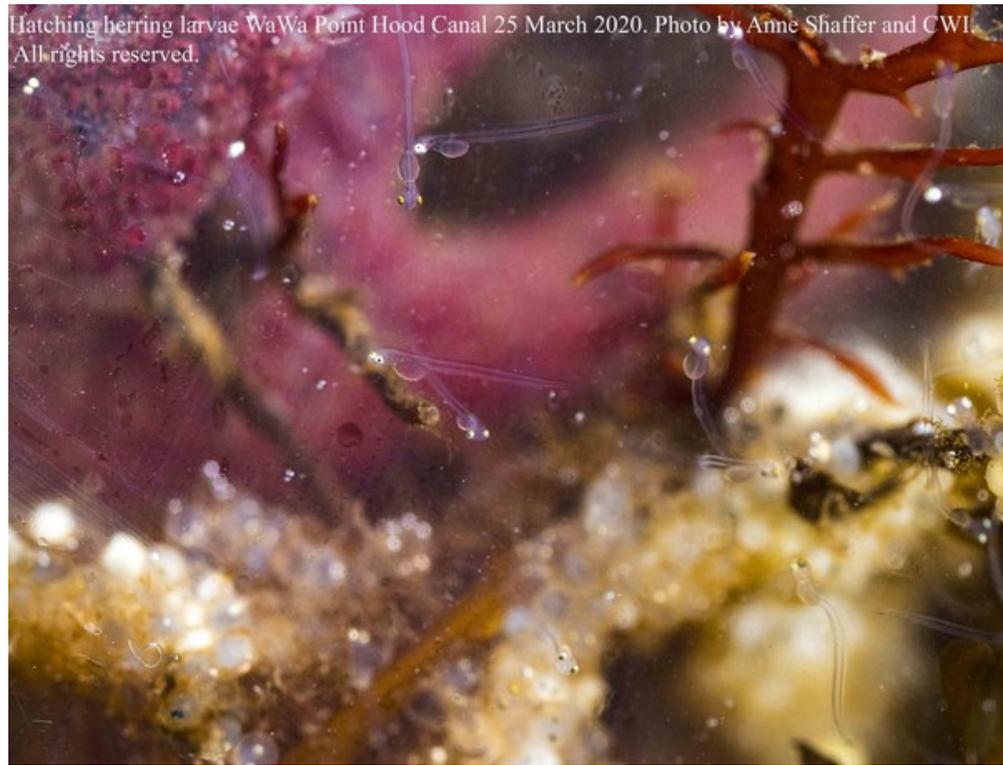
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has extended the [public comments period](#) for the 5-year status review for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species of salmon and steelhead. Comments and new relevant information related to these 5-year reviews must be received by midnight on Tuesday, May 26.

The [Washington King Tides Program](#) invites people to visit the shoreline during a king tide or high water event and take pictures of important waterfront locations in their community using the [MyCoast app](#). These images help scientists, local planners and decision-makers understand how sea-level rise and storm surges affect our infrastructure and ecosystems. See the [King Tides Photo Tracker](#).

Are you tired of receiving junk mail? This website gives 6 easy steps to reduce unwanted mail! <https://www.ecocycle.org/junkmail>.

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) had to suspend herring spawn surveys. They ask that if you observe any activity that looks like herring spawning, please take video and pictures, note the location and date, and send them to Adam Lindquist (Adam.Lindquist@dfw.wa.gov).

Hatching herring larvae WaWa Point Hood Canal 25 March 2020. Photo by Anne Shaffer and CWI. All rights reserved.



Events - Attend While You're At Home!

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| Thursday, April 9 | The next in the EPA's Soak Up the Rain New England webinar series is called Living Shorelines: Slowing Coastal Erosion and Saving Connecticut Habitats. It will be from 7:30-9am PDT. Register here . |
| Thursday, April 9 | Veda Environmental is offering a free webinar on best practices for planning and facilitating remote meetings from 12-1pm. Email Hello@VedaEnv.com to receive a link to the webinar. |
| Tuesday, April 14 | The ILIO Technical Committee will meet via WebEx from 1-3pm. |
| Wednesday, April 15 | Using Flood Maps webinar, featuring Steve Lettau of the Onyx Group in Hawaii, is scheduled from 12pm-12:45pm PDT. Register here! |
| Wednesday, | SRTC will meet via WebEx from 1-3pm. |

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|------------------------|---|
| April 15 | |
| Wednesday, April 22 | The Department of Ecology is seeking public input on draft revisions to Water Quality Policy 1-11, Chapter 1: Assessment of Water Quality for the Clean Water Act Sections 303(d) and 305(b) Integrated Report . There will be a statewide webinar to explain the draft revisions and answer questions at 1:30pm. |
| Wednesday, April 29 | Call for LIO representatives, members, and collaborators to call in to a workshop about small jurisdiction stormwater needs hosted by Stormwater Strategic Implementation Lead and its Advisory Committee, SIAT. Contact Lori Clark for details. |
| Tuesday, May 5 | The MRC will meet via WebEx from 3-5pm. |

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

For more info, contact Ann Prusha: a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov or 360-678-2347.

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