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May Natural Resources Newsletter

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Natural Resources

Newsletter

May 2020

Announcements

COVID-19 Update

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.

Funding Opportunities

The [National Estuary Program \(NEP\)](#) Coastal Watersheds Grant (CWG) Program is a new nationally competitive grants program designed to support projects that address urgent and challenging issues threatening the well-being of coastal and estuarine areas. For more information and to download their 2020 Request for Proposals, visit [here](#). Letters of intent are due Friday, August 7. An informational webinar will be held on Wednesday, June 3 at 10am PDT. Register [here](#). The webinar will also be recorded and posted.

Programmatic Updates

Island Local Integrating Organization (ILIO)

The ILIO Technical Committee will meet via WebEx Tuesday, May 12 from 1-3pm.

The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) 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.

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

Marine Resources Committee (MRC)

The MRC will meet via WebEx on Tuesday, June 2 from 3-5pm.

The MRC is partnering with [Sound Water Stewards](#) (SWS) to bring online educational resources about the marine environment to local students and host an art contest. More details about the art contest will be available on the [MRC](#) and [SWS](#) websites the week of May 11.

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

Salmon Recovery

SRTC (Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee) will meet via WebEx Wednesday, May 20 from 1-3pm. They will be approving the final ranking for the 2020 SRFB (Salmon Recovery Funding Board) projects. For more information, please contact the Lead Entity Coordinator, [Dawn Spilsbury Pucci](#).

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

Resources and Interesting Reads

Learn

In this webinar tsunami and earthquake experts share what to do (and what not to do) before and during a tsunami alert. Check it out [here!](#)

Check out this presentation by Dr. Ivan Arismendi produced for the School of Aquatic and Fisheries Sciences at the University of Washington: [Diversity and Inclusion in Fisheries Sciences: From Data to Action](#).

[Click here](#) to read about Northwest Straits Commission's SoundIQ mapping tool and go on a virtual adventure from home!

Visit this very cool [storyboard](#) highlighting [Northwest Straits Foundation's Shore Friendly program](#).

Social scientists at Oregon State University have been analyzing a trove of more than 17,000 public comments sent to the Washington state governor's southern resident orca recovery task force. The researchers have added the comments to a keyword database to look at public emotions and perceptions around the issue of orca declines. Download the report summary [here](#).

On April 23, the Supreme Court of the United States in [County of Maui v. Hawai'i Wildlife Fund](#) announced a new test to determine whether a discharge of a pollutant that travels through groundwater is subject to Clean Water Act (CWA) National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting requirements. The Court held that a NPDES permit is required not only when there is a direct discharge from a point source, but also when there is the "functional equivalent of a direct discharge."

Tools

Visit the [Encyclopedia of Puget Sound](#); you can find articles and a centralized location for a wide range of maps and other resources.

Act!

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.

Worried about the [giant hornet sightings](#) in Washington and what they mean for honeybees and humans? Are you interested in helping with monitoring efforts to stop them from spreading? Find out more [here!](#) It involves building home-made traps, refilling the bait and collecting/mauling any samples weekly. Monitoring starts in July for 17 weeks (but you can begin sooner!).



A giant hornet chases bees (JEAN-FRANCOIS MONIER/AFP via Getty Images).

Events - Attend While You're At Home!

Tuesday, May 12	The ILIO Technical Committee will meet via WebEx from 1-3pm.
Wednesday, May 20	SRTCC will meet via WebEx from 1-3pm.
Thursday, May 21	Check out this series of presentations that were originally planned for the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference from 10am-12pm. Here is the Zoom Link .
Tuesday, June 2	The MRC will meet via WebEx from 3-5pm.
Wednesday, June 3	The webinar for the 2020 NEP Coastal Watersheds Grant Program Request for Proposals and overall application process will be from 10am-12pm PDT. Register here .

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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