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# Island County

Serving the communities of Camano & Whidbey Islands

## Island County Natural Resources Newsletter

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# Natural Resources

# Newsletter

July 2020

## Announcements

### COVID-19 Update

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 thankful to be part of such a strong, resourceful community.

# Program Updates

## Island Local Integrating Organization (ILIO)

The next ILIO Technical Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, July 14 from 1-3pm via WebEx.

The next ILIO Executive Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, July 22nd from 10-11am. Check [here](#) for more meeting details. The Technical Committee is invited to attend.

Puget Sound Partnership and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission invite you to participate in our next virtual Puget Sound Days on the Hill session on **Friday, July 10 from 1-2:30pm PDT**. We'll continue to discuss stimulus funding, Puget Sound restoration and protection, salmon recovery, and the powerful economic benefits of ecological restoration projects with **Representatives McMorris Rodgers, DelBene, and Larsen**. Each member of Congress will speak for about 25 minutes and answer moderated questions. Participants are invited to submit questions in advance when registering. **Advanced registration for each event is required and will close at 1pm PDT the day before the event. Please [click here](#) to register for the July 10 session.** We will send regular announcements with confirmed speakers for that week as well as a registration link for each event. You can also check <https://www.psp.wa.gov/psdoth2020.php> for the latest information.

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

## Marine Resources Committee (MRC)

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

Looking for a creative outlet for your kids? The MRC and [Sound Water Stewards](#) are hosting an [art contest!](#) Students in Island County entering grades 2-7 are invited to submit original artwork depicting a Salish Sea animal of their own design, and name their newly designed species. Entries are due by **Friday, July 17**. More information can be found [here](#).

Did you know that 12,000 crab pots are lost in Puget Sound every year? This has an impact on the marine environment as well as the number of harvestable crabs. We have some great information below to help you keep your pot and catch more crab!

- The [Northwest Straits Foundation](#) hosted a virtual crabber workshop, which covered crab management, recreational rules, crab gear and best practices. It is informative for new and experienced crabbers alike. Watch it [here!](#) Click [here](#) for an audio-only version.
- Would you like some free resources? Packets with information about how to avoid losing your pot, as well as a length of escape cord and a crab gauge are available for pickup on Camano and Whidbey Islands.
  - On Camano, packets are available on the informational table inside the Camano Annex, or you can contact volunteer [Scott Chase](#).
  - On Whidbey, packets will be available on a table outside of the Island County Natural Resources office located at 504 Haller St, Coupeville. The table will be outside every Monday during July from 9am-12pm, weather permitting. If you would like to pick up materials outside of this timeframe, please contact [Anna Toledo](#).
- Want to know how to get a crabbing license, properly report your catch, and check what areas are open? Visit the [WDFW page on recreational crabbing](#).

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

## **Salmon Recovery**

The Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizens Committee (SRTCC) approved the final ranking for this year's Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) project proposals. They are:

1. Hoypus Point Armor Removal (20-1124) which will provide designs, cost estimate and permitting for the removal of approximately 250 feet of riprap and fill. (Northwest Straits Foundation)
2. Polnell Point Road Armor Removal Feasibility and Design (20-1146) which will explore the feasibility of removing 1,400 feet of armor off the road that connects the tombolo to Polnell Point. Final design and permitting are also part of this proposal. (Northwest Straits Foundation)
3. Florence Island Tidal Wetland Acquisition (20-1092) which will acquire 537 acres of former tidal wetlands on the East side of Port Susan. The WRIA 6 lead entity is providing only a small amount of the total cost to our neighboring lead entity for this project. (Stillaguamish Tribe)
4. WRIA 6 Nearshore Protection Tool Implementation (20-1134) which will target an important 35 acre former tidal wetland parcel and an adjacent ~20 acre tideland parcel for acquisition and protection. (Whidbey Camano Land Trust)

Congratulations to the sponsors who developed great projects this year. The next step for these projects is vetting by the Regional Salmon Recovery Organization (the Puget Sound Partnership) and then approval by the SRFB in early September.

SRTCC will discuss its 4-year workplan at the next meeting. It will be held Wednesday, July 15 from 1-3pm via WebEx. Contact [Dawn Spilsbury Pucci](#) if you would like to attend. SRTCC meetings are open to the public.

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

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## Resources and Interesting Reads

### Local News

Read about bark beetles in this [Whidbey News-Times article](#). Our beautiful grand firs are especially vulnerable because of the extra dry conditions of the past few years.

### Funding Opportunities

The [National Estuary Program \(NEP\)](#) Coastal Watersheds Grant (CWG) Program is a nationally competitive grants program designed to support projects that address urgent and challenging issues threatening the well-being of coastal and estuarine areas within determined estuaries of national significance. For more information and to download their 2020 Request for Proposals, visit their [website](#). Letters of intent are due Friday, August 7. A recorded webinar is available [here](#).

### Learn

The Pacific States and British Columbia's [Oil Spill Task Force](#) is hosting the 2020 Salish Sea Shared Waters Forum virtually on October 14 and 15. The goal of the forum is to exchange information to enhance oil spill prevention, preparedness and response to minimize impact of oil spills to the Salish Sea (the shared waters of Washington and British Columbia), and identify next steps needed to keep momentum. You will be able to register [here](#).

[The Power of Kelp](#) - this short video dives into the world of kelp in Puget Sound. Learn about harnessing the power of kelp to improve growing conditions in the water for shellfish and out of the water when applied to farmland.

Are you looking to expand your perspective about the ways in which environmentalism intersects with social justice and equality? Watch a bunch of webinars [here](#). Or, read articles about it [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

[Whidbey Island Conservation District](#) and Island County Natural Resources have partnered to produce a seasonal weed bulletin (click [here](#) for the most current one). It spotlights the noxious weeds to be on the lookout for during that season. Click [here](#) to get on the mailing list! To see a list of all Island County's noxious weeds, visit [here](#).

Seattle's enhanced seawall "may be boosting the fitness and chances of survival for young salmon as they migrate through a treacherous section of waterfront on their way to the ocean." Read about it [here](#)! See photo below.

"The pinto abalone was a popular sport catch for divers in the Salish Sea until its numbers plummeted to near extinction. Now, the delicious marine snail is on the endangered species list and the focus of an ambitious hatchery and replanting program. The search is on for suitable habitat and a broad coalition of partners has released more than 20,000 young pintos into the wild with the hope that the population will start to rebound." Check out [this article](#) for more information!

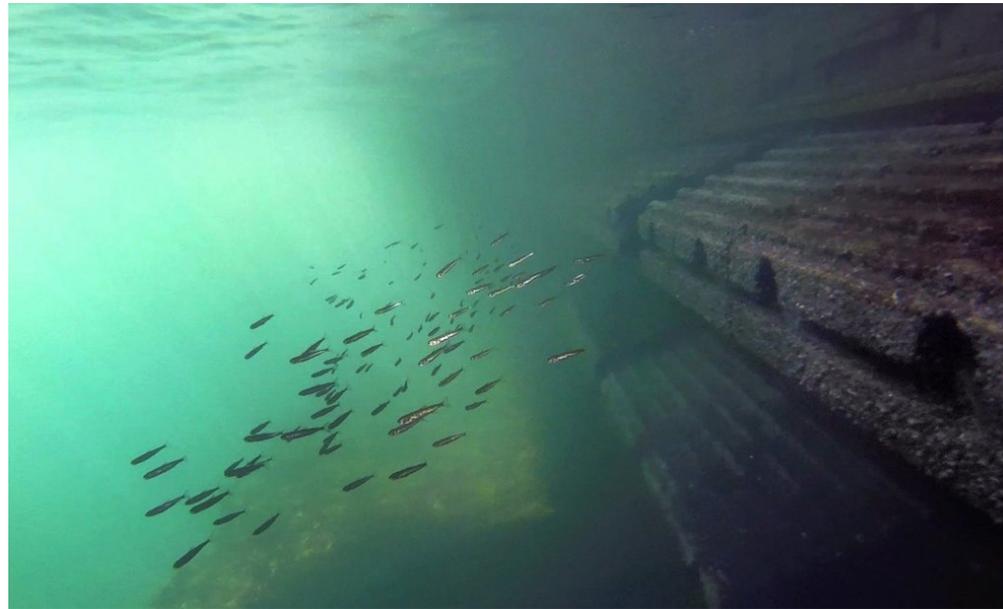
## Tools

On Wednesday, July 15 at 9am PDT, [Georgetown Climate Center](#) will be hosting a [webinar](#) to launch their new Managed Retreat Toolkit. It combines legal and policy tools, best and emerging practices, and case studies to support peer learning and decision making around managed retreat and climate adaptation.

[Flood Factor](#) is an online tool created by the nonprofit [First Street Foundation](#). It's easy to use, and you will be able to see your property's current and future risk of flooding, learn if it has flooded in the past, and understand how flood risks are changing because of the environment.

## Act!

Have a lot of extra woody debris in your yard? Tired from bending over to tend your garden? Worried about how climate change will increase water usage? Hugelkultur might be right for you! Hugelkultur (pronounced Hoo-gul-culture) means hill culture or hill mound. It's a raised garden bed built from the bottom up with woody debris and other compostable materials. Read more about it [here](#) and [here](#)! Click the photo for a link to its source.



Juvenile chum salmon swimming along the new Seattle seawall. Photo: Mike Caputo/UW

## Events - Attend While You're At Home!

Tuesday, July 7	Learn about local marine species with a virtual field trip to Edmonds Shoreline Sanctuary, led by Snohomish MRC's Susan Tarpley from 1-2pm. <a href="#">Click here</a> to register.
Tuesday, July 7	The MRC will meet via WebEx from 3-5pm.

Friday, July 10	The Puget Sound Partnership and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission will hold its Virtual Puget Sound Days on the Hill event from 1-2:30. Advance registration is required. Register <a href="#">here</a> .
Tuesday, July 14	The ILIO Technical Committee will meet via WebEx from 1-3pm.
Wednesday, July 15	At 9am PDT, Georgetown Climate Center will be hosting a webinar to launch their new Managed Retreat Toolkit. <a href="#">Register here</a> .
Wednesday, July 15	SRTCC will meet via WebEx from 1-3pm.
Friday, July 17	The Puget Sound Partnership and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission will hold its Virtual Puget Sound Days on the Hill event from 1-2:30. Advance registration is required. Visit <a href="#">here</a> for more information.
Wednesday, July 22	The ILIO Executive Committee will meet via WebEx from 10-11am.
Friday, July 24	The Puget Sound Partnership and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission will hold its Virtual Puget Sound Days on the Hill event from 1-2:30. Advance registration is required. Visit <a href="#">here</a> for more information.
Friday, July 31	The Puget Sound Partnership and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission will hold its Virtual Puget Sound Days on the Hill event from 1-2:30. Advance registration is required. Visit <a href="#">here</a> for more information.

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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