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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.

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: Pilot Program – “Oil Spill Awareness and Response Support” Training at 1pm.
Wednesday, December 16	SRTC will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm.
Thursday, December 31	Last day to nominate someone for the 2021 Volunteer of the Year award .
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 Workshop 1: How to Successfully Protect Critical Areas and Shorelines 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 or 360-678-2347.

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