



Natural Resources

Newsletter

January 2021

Programmatic Updates

Island Local Integrating Organization (ILIO)

The next ILIO Technical Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, January 12 from 1-3pm via Zoom.

The [Stormwater Strategic Initiative](#) is pleased to share the final Implementation Strategy (IS) for Protecting and Restoring Stream Health, as measured by the Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity (B-IBI) Strategy. The [Final B-IBI IS](#) aims to improve water quality through integrated watershed planning and capacity building.

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



Caddisfly larva in its casing (Limnephilidae)

Marine Resources Committee (MRC)

The next MRC meeting will be held Tuesday, February 2 from 3-5pm via Zoom.

Despite 2020's unique challenges, our volunteers have been hard at work all year. The bull kelp team conducted boat-based surveys and collected aerial images this summer to monitor bull kelp beds around Island County. Read the 2020 bull kelp monitoring report [here!](#) And be sure to check out the [collection of videos](#) from our volunteers of creatures seen in bull kelp beds, including sand lance, herring, and rockfish.

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 Wednesday, January 20 from 1-3pm via Zoom.

SRTCC is pleased to announce its Request for Proposals to be considered for the 2021 [Salmon Recovery Funding Board](#) (SRFB) grant round. A [Letter of Intent](#) is due by Friday, January 15. Final applications are due by Monday, February 15. Project sponsors can find the Request for Proposals and download the Letter of Intent template [here](#). Please contact [Dawn Spilsbury Pucci](#) with questions.

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

Resources and Interesting Reads

Local News

New research shows that jet noise reaches orcas 100 feet underwater. Read all about it in this [Seattle Times article](#) and in this [Seattle Times opinion article](#).



A northern resident orca calf gets a belly rub from its mother as they swim. Andrew Trites / University of British Columbia

Learn

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.

Check out [this article](#) about scientists confronting anti-Black racism and building community. Also, the [Black in Marine Science](#) website has some awesome articles and resources!

Large numbers of Coho that enter Puget Sound's urban streams are dying before they can spawn. Scientists have linked it to a chemical commonly found in tires. Read about it [here](#).

"A river spawning species of forage fish known as the longfin smelt is rare and getting rarer in

the Salish Sea. Biologists are looking into the mysterious decline of the 'hooligans' of the Nooksack." Read the article [here](#).



A longfin smelt. Rachel Arnold/SSRC

The [2020 Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force Annual Report](#) is available now. The report highlights accomplishments and current work in oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response.

Act!

During the 2021 Legislative Session, [Puget Sound Partnership](#) (PSP) is offering multiple opportunities to help you stay informed about legislative activities that affect Puget Sound protection and recovery efforts. Visit [PSP's website](#) for Legislative Updates, the Legislative Calendar, and instructions for attending Legislative Information Call-In meetings with Jeff Parsons, Legislative Policy Director. The Call-In meetings take place Fridays from 11:30am to no later than 12:30pm. The first one will be Friday, January 8. You can also sign up to receive email updates [here](#).

The public comment period for the [North Puget Sound Geographic Response Plan](#) is open until February 15. The area encompasses the marine waters between the San Juan Islands and mainland Washington (roughly), and extends from Fidalgo Island to the south to the Canadian Border.

Mark your calendar! Registration is now open for Sound Water Stewards' [27th Sound Waters University](#) on Saturday, February 6. It will be entirely virtual this year. You will be able to tune in to live classes all day, and have an opportunity to watch classes after the event. Register [here](#).



SOUND WATERS UNIVERSITY 2021

February 6, 2021



Event Rundown

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.
Friday, January 15	Letter of Intent due to SRTCC for the 2021 SRFB grant round.
Wednesday, January 20	Critical Areas Adaptive Management Training Adaptive Management Workshop 2: Setting the Stage - Successful adaptive management and critical area will take place at 9am.
Wednesday, January 20	SRTCC will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm.
Wednesday, January 27	Critical Areas Adaptive Management Training Adaptive Management Workshop 3: Wetlands will take place at 9am.
Tuesday, February 2	MRC will meet via Zoom from 3-5pm.
Wednesday, February 3	Critical Areas Adaptive Management Training Adaptive Management Workshop 4: Geologically Hazardous Areas will take place at 9am.
Saturday, February 6	Sound Waters University will take place from 8:30am-3:15pm.

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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