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Natural Resources Newsletter

February 2021

Announcements

Shore Friendly RFQ and Educational Opportunity

Island County Department of Natural Resources is soliciting interest from consultants who wish to be evaluated and considered to provide technical assistance, design services, and permitting assistance for the Island County Shore Friendly Program. View the full Request for Qualification (RFQ) [here](#). Questions regarding the project should be directed to Anna Toledo at a.toledo@islandcountywa.gov or 360-678-2349. The submittal must be received no later than **4:30pm on Wednesday, February 17**.

We will be partnering with the [Northwest Straits Foundation](#) to host a webinar for Island County shoreline property owners in March. Details to come!



PROTECTING PUGET SOUND STARTS AT HOME



CRAFT 3 Regional Loan Program

The CRAFT 3 Regional Loan Program, which Island County Public Health participates in, received a \$10 million award! These dollars can help local homeowners repair and replace on-site septic systems when they qualify for a low-cost loan. [This award will help build resilient communities](#). Learn all about the program, and how you might qualify, [here](#).

Programmatic Updates

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

The next ILIO Technical Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, March 9 from 1-3pm via Zoom.

The ILIO Executive Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, February 24 from 10-11am. These meetings are open to the public. Join via this [link](#).

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, March 2 from 3-5pm via Zoom.

The MRC and [Sound Water Stewards](#) hosted a training on utilizing the [MyCoast app](#), a cell phone application to track and report beach change and nearshore hazards to enhance awareness among decision-makers and stakeholders. The recorded training will

be made available on the MRC website this month.

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, February 17 from 3-5pm via Zoom.

There are 3 projects proposed for this year's grant round. The projects will be reviewed by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's Technical Review Panel and SRTCC on Thursday, March 4. The Agenda is TBD. This is an open public meeting. More details are coming soon; please check back [here](#).

The 2020 [State of the Salmon](#) report is out! Read the Executive Summary [here](#).

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



English Boom Area, Camano Island - stay tuned for exciting developments! Photo by Dawn Spilsbury Pucci.

Resources and Interesting Reads

Local News

A salmonellosis outbreak in Washington is killing many birds this winter, especially finches. [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife \(WDFW\)](#) is recommending the **removal of all bird feeders and bird baths through February**. Visit [WDFW's](#)

[salmonellosis FAQ page](#) for more information.



Pine Siskins, a species of finch. Please remove your feeders through February to protect them from salmonellosis. Photo by Judith Roan/Audubon Photography Awards (click photo for source page).

Funding Opportunities

[Washington State Department of Ecology](#) is requesting grant proposals for Spills Program Coastal Protection Fund Environmental Improvement Projects. Proposals are due by 5pm on Wednesday, February 24. Guidelines can be found [here](#).

The [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) (NOAA) is offering a [funding opportunity](#) to encourage non-Federal entities to partner with NOAA on jointly funded hydrographic surveying and mapping and related activities of mutual interest. Proposals are due by Friday, February 26. Also, if an entity is unable to apply for this particular opportunity but has an interest in participating in similar, future opportunities, they are encouraged to submit a one-page statement of interest by Friday, February 26 to help gauge whether to offer this matching fund program in future years.

Learn

If you care about conservation and the environment, it's easy to become disheartened. If this is a struggle you can relate to, [please read this article!](#) It argues that hope is ultimately better than despair for you AND the environment.



West Beach, Whidbey Island. Photo by Ann Prusha.

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. The next one, [Workshop 6 - Frequently Flooded Areas](#), will take place on Wednesday, February 17 at 9am.

The Washington [Coastal Training Program](#) is offering an interactive course, [Coastal Adaptation Planning Essentials](#), designed for coastal management practitioners who are just starting to address the challenges coastal communities are facing as a result of climate change. Participants will learn the foundational concepts of a five-step adaptation planning process over the course of two workshops. The first one will be Tuesday, March 23, and the second one will be Thursday, March 25. Both are from 9am-11am.

[Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership](#) (PNAMP) and [StreamNet](#) have teamed up to host a series of webinars on various topics related to emerging technologies for monitoring and data management. Each month will focus on one topic and include three or four virtual sessions with expert speakers from the field. Sessions will be recorded and posted to [PNAMP's YouTube Channel](#). February's topic will be Data Management. Visit [here](#) to register!

The [UW School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences](#) is putting on their Bevan Series of weekly seminars. This year's focus is on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. You can tune in live on Thursdays at 4:30pm or watch the recordings afterwards [here](#).

The [Puget Sound Partnership](#) (PSP) has recently released the final products of the Puget Sound Vital Signs Revisions project. Read the full report [here](#)!

[This paper](#) describes and provides results for the coastal vertical land movement analysis conducted as a result of the [Washington Coastal Resilience Project](#).

Read [this article](#) to learn about some marine ecosystems' mysterious thiamine deficiencies, and its deadly effect on juvenile salmon.



Salmon hatching. Photo from Randall Benton/Sacramento Bee/Zuma Press/Alamy Stock Photo.

Tools

Check out PSP's [Nearshore Credit Program](#), which streamlines the permitting process for building residential or commercial in- and over-water structures and protects habitat for Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species within the nearshore ecosystem. An article about the program can be found [here](#).

[Coastal Hazards Resiliency Network](#) has recently added a number of new case studies to the [Coastal Hazards Risk Reduction Project Mapper](#) that focus on sea level rise considerations. For more information and to read excerpts from several of the case studies, visit [here](#).

Act!

[Help PSP identify desired outcomes for Puget Sound Recovery](#). Desired outcomes focus on reducing adverse effects on the ecosystem and managing the human activities that create them, while maintaining healthy, vibrant, and equitable communities. By successfully achieving the desired outcomes determined in the Action Agenda, the recovery community will accelerate transformative change for Puget Sound recovery. Visit [here](#) to see the draft and to weigh in!

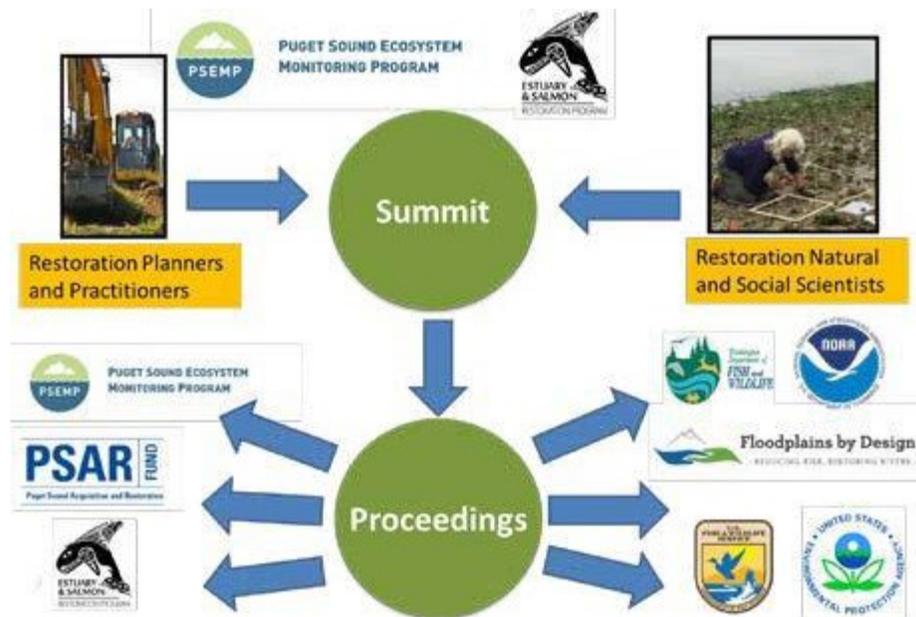


Chinook Salmon. Photo from Shutterstock/Kevin Cass (click photo for source page).

During the 2021 Legislative Session, [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, and will continue until May 7. 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 Monday, 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.

The [Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program](#) (PSEMP) Nearshore Work Group and WDFW's [Estuary and Salmon and Restoration Program](#) (ESRP), is hosting a Nearshore Restoration Virtual Summit. Details and registration information are coming soon! Mark your calendars; the Beaches topic will be Wednesday and Thursday, March 10-11, the Deltas topic will be Wednesday and Thursday, March 17-18, and the Embayments and Deltas topics will be Wednesday and Thursday, March 24-25.



Event Rundown

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| Thursday, February 11 | Sierra Nevada Alliance is hosting a webinar featuring Carolyn Finney, PhD - Black Faces, White Spaces ; Christian Cooper ; John Muir , and Playing the Long Game from 12-1pm. |
| Wednesday, February 17 | Critical Areas Adaptive Management Training Workshop 6 - Frequently Flooded Areas will be held at 9am. |
| Wednesday, February 17 | SRTCC will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm. |
| Wednesday, February 24 | Critical Areas Adaptive Management Training Workshop 7 - Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas (CARAs) will be held at 9am. |
| Wednesday, February 24 | ILIO Executive Committee will meet via Zoom from 10-11am. |
| Thursday, February 25 | Long Live the Kings is working on some exciting new projects in the Nisqually River Estuary in partnership with the Nisqually Indian Tribe and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Learn more in this webinar , at 6pm. |
| Tuesday, March 2 | The MRC will meet via Zoom from 3-5pm |
| Wednesday, March 3 | Critical Areas Adaptive Management Training Workshop 8 - Shoreline will be held at 9am. |
| Thursday, March 4 | The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is launching the Environmental Justice (EJ) and Systemic Racism Speaker Series by featuring The Mapping Inequality Project from 9-10am. |
| Tuesday, March 9 | ILIO Technical Committee will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm. |

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| Wednesday-Thursday, March 10-11 | Nearshore Restoration Virtual Summit: Beaches (details coming soon). |
| Tuesday, March 16 | Cascadia Coastal Hazards Research Coordination Network is hosting a seminar about RAPID data for coastal community hazard planning and resilience from 2:30-3:30pm. |
| Wednesday-Thursday, March 17-18 | Nearshore Restoration Virtual Summit: Deltas (details coming soon). |
| Tuesday & Thursday, March 23 & 25 | Coastal Adaptation Planning Essentials workshop will be held from 9-11am. |
| Wednesday-Thursday, March 24-25 | Nearshore Restoration Virtual Summit: Embayments and Deltas (details coming soon). |

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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