



# Natural Resources Newsletter

March 2021

## Announcements

### [Free Virtual Shore Friendly Workshop](#)

The [Island County Shore Friendly Program](#) invites you to join us for a free virtual workshop, in partnership with the [Northwest Straits Foundation](#) (NWSF) and [Island County Marine Resources Committee](#), in our ongoing work to provide resources for shoreline landowners and anyone interested in learning more about this place we all love.

Join us on **Wednesday, March 17, from 4-6pm** to get an introduction to coastal processes and habitats, with a specific focus on Island County. Additionally, this workshop will provide breakout sessions focused on your specific type of shoreline (high bluff, medium bank, or low-no bank). [Register 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 Island LIO is pleased to welcome four new members:

Krista Loercher is joining the ILIO Technical Committee as the Business/Port Representative. She is the owner of Whidbey Island Kayaking, which does tours from Penn Cove to Possession Point. She is also a South Whidbey Parks and Recreation Commissioner. We are excited to have Krista join us and bring her knowledge and expertise to our group.

Melanie Bacon, Island County Commissioner for District 1, Jack Ng, Port of South Whidbey Commissioner, and David Day, Port of Coupeville Commissioner are new members on the ILIO Executive Committee.



**[2021 VIRTUAL PUGET SOUND DAYS ON THE HILL](#)**: Since we can't convene in person, this year's Puget Sound Days on the Hill will be a series of virtual events with the Washington congressional delegation, federal officials, and special guests. [Puget Sound](#)

[Partnership \(PSP\)](#) and the [Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission \(NWIFC\)](#) are hosting these events, which are currently scheduled on Fridays from 1-2:30pm PDT, April 23-May 21. Additional notes will be provided prior to each session. Puget Sound restoration and protection, salmon recovery efforts, climate change adaptation and mitigation, infrastructure, and other topics will be discussed. More details are coming; check [here](#) for the latest information.

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, April 6 from 3-5pm via Zoom.

We are pleased to welcome three new members to the MRC! Jill Lipoti, Ken Collins, and Alex Plumb were all appointed to the MRC in February. You can read more about their backgrounds and expertise on our "[About Us](#)" page.

Congratulations to Karis Barnes, recipient of the 2021 Jan Holmes Island County Coastal Volunteer of the Year award! Karis went above and beyond in her volunteer work at Deception Pass State Park this past summer. Her educational efforts and stewardship messaging helped reach over 20,000 visitors, leaving them with positive memories and nuggets of information about tide pool ecosystems. Read more about Karis and her volunteer work [here](#)!

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, March 17 from 1-3pm via Zoom.

SRTCC recently held virtual site visits for the two projects that are moving forward in the ranking process. Two members of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's Technical Review Panel attended to review the technical aspect of each project.

The first project is Hoypus Point Shoreline Restoration. This project, located on Washington Parks land in Deception Pass State Park, will remove approximately 350 linear feet of shoreline armor and up to 1/3 acre of fill to re-establish nearshore processes at Hoypus Point. The second project is Polnell Armor Removal. This project, located on the Seaplane base, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, will remove approximately 2,000 tons of armor rock and debris along 1,400 feet of shoreline, removal of fill and decommissioning of approximately 500 linear feet of road prism.

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

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# **Resources and Interesting Reads**

## **Funding Opportunities**

The [U.S. Department of Transportation](#) announced its 2021 round of the [Infrastructure for](#)

[Rebuilding America \(INFRA\) grant program](#). Its purpose is to fund transportation projects of national and regional significance that are in line with the Biden Administration's principles for national infrastructure projects that result in good-paying jobs, improve safety, apply transformative technology, and explicitly address climate change and racial equity. The deadline to apply is Friday, March 19. Visit [here](#) for more details, instructions, and information about upcoming webinars.

## Learn

The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) [Nearshore Habitat Program](#) recently released a long-term study of bull kelp forests in South Puget Sound, in collaboration with [Marine Agronomics](#) and [United States Geological Survey \(USGS\)](#). Findings are available [here](#) and [here](#), and a Storymap is available [here](#).



*Photo credit: Ear to the Ground (click photo for source)*

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 [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 9 - Permit Implementation Monitoring Tools](#), will take place on Wednesday, March 10 at 9am.

The [Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program \(PSEMP\)](#) Nearshore Work Group and WDFW's [Estuary and Salmon and Restoration Program \(ESRP\)](#), is hosting the [2021 Nearshore Restoration Virtual Summit](#). It takes place over three weeks, and covers three topics. 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 topics will be Wednesday and Thursday, March 24-25. Register [here](#).



## PUGET SOUND ECOSYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAM



RESTORATION PLANNERS AND PRACTITIONERS



NATURAL AND SOCIAL SCIENTISTS



*Schematic of contributors and end users for the Nearshore Restoration Summit and Synthesis*

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.

30 by 30 - President Biden has pledged to preserve 30% of US lands and waters by 2030. Can we do it? Read about it [here](#).



*West Beach, Whidbey Island. Photo Credit: Cory Prusha*

## Tools

The [National Congress of American Indians](#) (NCAI) released the [Tribal Food Sovereignty and Food Production Resource Directory](#). This provides a comprehensive collation of relevant funding resources and other sources of support available to individual Native food producers and tribal nations and organizations as they work to start, sustain, or grow their food production, sovereignty, and security efforts. Click [here](#) for an informational webinar recording.

## Act!

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 [Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership](#) (PNAMP) has announced that they are restarting the [Remote Sensing Forum](#) to support individuals and entities with equitable opportunities to learn and advance the use of remote sensing technologies and data for the research and management of aquatic ecosystems. It will take place on Tuesday, March 16 from 12:30-2pm. If you are interested in attending, please [fill out this survey](#) by March 14.



Photo credit: PNAMP (click photo for source)

## Event Rundown

Tuesday, March 9	The ILIO Technical Committee will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm.
Wednesday-Thursday, March 10-11	<a href="#">2021 Nearshore Restoration Virtual Summit: Beaches</a> will be held from 9:30am-2:30pm on Day 1, and 8:30am-12pm on Day 2.
Monday, March 15	Puget Sound Institute is hosting a presentation called <a href="#">Are summer low flows increasing in Puget Sound streams?</a> from 10-11am.
Tuesday, March 16	Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP) is restarting the <a href="#">Remote Sensing Forum</a> , from 12:30-2pm.
Tuesday, March 16	Cascadia Coastal Hazards Research Coordination Network is hosting a seminar about <a href="#">RAPID data for coastal community hazard planning and resilience</a> from 2:30-3:30pm.

Wednesday, March 17	SRTCC will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm.
Wednesday, March 17	The Island County Shore Friendly Program, NWSF, and Island MRC is hosting a <a href="#">free virtual workshop</a> about coastal processes and habitats, focusing on Island County, from 4-6pm.
Wednesday- Thursday, March 17-18	<a href="#">2021 Nearshore Restoration Virtual Summit: Deltas</a> will be held from 8:30am-4pm on Day 1, and 8:30am-12:15pm on Day 2.
Monday March 22	University of Washington Puget Sound Institute is hosting a seminar entitled <a href="#">Voices Unbound: Amplifying perspectives of disenfranchised communities to provoke environmental change</a> at 10am.
Tuesday & Thursday, March 23 & 25	<a href="#">Coastal Adaptation Planning Essentials</a> workshop will be held from 9-11am.
Wednesday- Thursday, March 24-25	<a href="#">2021 Nearshore Restoration Virtual Summit: Embayments</a> will be held from 12:30-3:30 on Day 1, and 9:30am-12:30pm on Day 2.
Wednesday- Thursday, March 31- April 1	Ocean Visions and partners are hosting the <a href="#">Coastal Solutions Workshop - Coastal Flood Modeling, Predication, and Observations for the U.S. West Coast</a> workshop. It will be held from 10:30am-2:30pm on Day 1 and 9:30am-12:30pm on Day 2.
Tuesday, April 6	The Island County MRC will meet via Zoom from 3-5pm.
Tuesday, April 20	<a href="#">The Marine Social Science Network: Promoting understanding of people's relationship with the sea</a> webinar will be held at 9am PDT.

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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