



Natural Resources Newsletter

June 2021

Announcements

[Shellfish Resources](#)

If you are interested in environmental justice and how it relates to [recreational shellfish harvesting](#), check out [this map](#). It was developed by a research team at [Oregon State University](#) to visualize survey responses on subjective human well-being in the Puget Sound in 2018 and 2020.



Mussels. Photo credit: Washington State Department of Health

Programmatic Updates

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

The ILIO Technical Committee will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, July 13 from 1-3pm via Zoom.

The [Puget Sound Partnership](#) (PSP) Leadership Council approved [desired outcomes for Puget Sound recovery](#), which articulate what is needed to protect and restore habitat, improve water quality, protect the food web and imperiled species, prevent the worst effects of climate change, and ensure human wellbeing. This is open for public comment until Friday, June 25. [Click here](#) to access the draft list of strategies for achieving desired outcomes as well as instructions for providing feedback.

[The Toxics in Fish Strategy is out on the street!](#) After four years of highly collaborative work with a multitude of partners, the Toxics in Fish Implementation Strategy has been published by the [Stormwater Strategic Initiative Lead](#) Team. It can be found in PSP's [Public Box](#). This includes all appendices, narratives, and supporting science and state of knowledge documentation.



Photo credit: Washington Stormwater Center (click image for source page)

Check out [ILIO's website](#) for meeting agendas and minutes.

[Marine Resources Committee \(MRC\)](#)

The MRC will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, July 6 from 3-5pm via Zoom.

Check out [this Make a Difference Column article](#) in *Whidbey Weekly*, written by MRC's own Andi Kopit! In this article, Andi provides information about plastics, and ways to reduce plastic waste. She also gives instructions for a fun family activity that you can do while cleaning up the beach.

Bull kelp monitoring season is here! Bull kelp (*Nereocystis luetkeana*) forests are important habitats for all types of marine animals. Endangered and threatened species, such as pinto abalone and yelloweye rockfish, depend on bull kelp forests for shelter and

nutrients. Animals critical to the food web, such as herring, use bull kelp forests for protection and food during certain life stages. Each year during the bull kelp growing season, volunteers map these bull kelp forests and collect data. Learn more [here](#).



Bull Kelp Monitoring. Photo credit: Kelly Zupich

MRC's Forage Fish monitoring teams are getting back out on the beach, **and the program is looking for more volunteers!** Monitoring for forage fish eggs provides important data that contributes to the health of marine life. If volunteering to be a part of this community science effort is something that piques your interest, please contact Ann Prusha at a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov or 360-678-2347.

Be sure to check [MRC's website](#) for upcoming meetings, agendas, and minutes.

[Salmon Recovery](#)

The Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee (SRTCC) will hold its next meeting on at 1pm on Wednesday, July 21 at Cornet Bay.

If you are able to provide a business perspective to salmon recovery, SRTCC can benefit greatly from your experience! SRTCC is looking for a member who is able to serve by helping the group view salmon recovery through a business/economic lens. Please contact Dawn Spilsbury Pucci at d.pucci@islandcountywa.gov if you or someone you know is interested in this opportunity.

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

Resources and Interesting Reads

Local News

The U.S. House of Representatives voted to pass the Promoting United Government Efforts to Save Our Sound (PUGET SOS) Act of 2021. The PUGET SOS Act would enhance the federal government's role and investment in Puget Sound, the nation's largest estuary by volume. Read all about it [here](#).

Following an extremely dry couple of months, the [Washington State Department of Ecology](#) (Ecology) issued a drought advisory for most of Washington state in May. As we head into the summer, you can read about state drought conditions [here](#).

Funding Opportunities

The [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) (WDFW) is has announced its inaugural [Watchable Wildlife Grant program](#) for individuals, non-profits, schools, and local and county governments. WDFW will accept grant applications for projects that create, improve, increase, and/or promote opportunities for communities to view wildlife. Applications are due by Sunday, July 25.

Washington counties, cities, and towns with a Shoreline Master Program will be eligible to apply for the Shoreline Master Program Competitive Grant Pilot Program through Ecology. The application period opens on September 1, and more information will be made available before then. There will be two optional pre-application workshops. The first will be Tuesday, July 13 at 10:30am (register [here](#)), and the second will be Thursday, August 12 at 1pm (register [here](#)).

Learn

The [Northwest Straits Foundation](#) (NWSF) and WDFW are hosting a free online crabbing workshop on Wednesday, June 30 from 6-7pm. Register [here](#).



Image from NWSF

The [University of Washington \(UW\) Tacoma](#) is hosting a virtual [International Conference on Emerging Contaminants \(EMCON\) conference](#) focused on emerging contaminants occurrence, fate, transport, and effects on Monday-Tuesday, September 13-14. It will cover stormwater, roadway runoff, microplastics, and 6PPD, and other Pacific Northwest topics. Learn more and register [here](#).

Did you miss the Washington State Municipal Stormwater Conference this year? You can still watch all the sessions [here](#). The [Washington Stormwater Center](#) also has a [YouTube Channel](#) with a wealth of content.

In May, the [Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force](#) sponsored a Salish Sea Green Boating Webinar. You can [watch the recorded webinar here](#).

"Communicating the effects of climate change such as sea level rise can be a daunting task, especially when the change is gradual and the most severe impacts are still years away." Read [this article](#) to learn about how researchers use virtual reality to show the dangers of sea level rise in Santa Cruz, California.

Act!

The virtual [Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference](#) will be held virtually in April of 2022. They will be making a call for submissions this summer. Visit [here](#) for more details.

Want an excuse to visit some amazing coastal sites? Check out NWSF's [Passport To Marine Adventure](#)! It's an interactive way to engage with the Salish Sea and its surrounding ecosystem. Visit coastal exploration sites, complete educational activities and win prizes as you explore the Salish Sea like never before.



Event Rundown

Wednesday, June 30	NWSF and WDFW are hosting a free online crabbing workshop from 6-7pm. Register here .
Tuesday, July 6	The MRC will meet via Zoom from 3-5pm.
Tuesday, July 13	The ILIO Technical Committee will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm.
Wednesday, July 21	SRTCC will meet at Cornet Bay at 1pm.
Monday & Tuesday, September 13 & 14	UW Tacoma is hosting a virtual EMCON conference .

Thank you for your interest in Island County Natural Resources.

For more information, contact Ann Prusha at a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov or 360-678-2347.

Stay connected with our [Facebook](#) page!

Stay Connected with Island County, Washington:

SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Unsubscribe All](#) | [Help](#)