



Natural Resources Newsletter

August 2020

Announcements

Lakes Monitoring Presentation and Volunteer Opportunity

On August 9, Island County Natural Resources Staff presented to the community about the growing concern of harmful cyanobacteria in our community. [Click here](#) to see the presentation.

We will be monitoring cyanobacteria blooms, bacteria, and temperature for three Island County Lakes: Goss Lake and Lone Lake in Langley, and Deer Lake in Clinton. **If you are interested in participating in the Island County Lakes Monitoring Program, please contact Matthew Colston at m.colston@islandcountywa.gov.**

Asian Giant Hornet Trapping Volunteer Opportunity

Working with the [Washington State Department of Agriculture](#) (WSDA), Island County Natural Resources has several monitoring sites for the Asian Giant Hornet (*Vespa mandarinia*) across Island County. We encourage anyone who is interested in posting traps to contact Cassie Cichorz at CCichorz@agr.wa.gov or Matthew Colston at m.colston@islandcountywa.gov. We hope to work with the community to ensure that this invasive species stay confined to Northwestern Washington. For more information about the ongoing project, please check out this [link](#).



Size comparison of an Asian giant hornet and a honey bee. Image source: United States Department of Agriculture

Committee Updates

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

The ILIO Technical Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 14 from 1-3pm via Zoom, and the Executive Committee will meet on Wednesday, August 25 from 10-11am via Zoom.

Check out [this Puget Sound Institute article](#) to learn about how the [Puget Sound Partnership](#) (PSP) is working to incorporate human wellbeing and environmental justice into its work.

The PSP 2022-2026 Action Agenda development is wrapping up Phase 3 – Strategy Development, and beginning to move to Phase 4 – Developing actions and commitments that align with strategies.

ILIO is currently working on updating Island County's Ecosystem Recovery Plan.

Check out [ILIO's website](#) for meeting information.

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

The next MRC meeting will be held Tuesday, September 7 from 3-5pm via Zoom.

Catch More Crab! On the opening day of the crabbing season, volunteers at Camano Island State Park, Cornet Bay Boat Launch, Langley Marina, and Oak Harbor Marina distributed [Catch More Crab](#) materials. An estimated 12,000 pots are lost in Puget Sound each year, which continue to capture crab with no one to harvest them. Following the recommendations below will help you to protect the environment while increasing your crab harvest!

CATCH MORE CRAB!

Did you know 12,000 crab pots are lost in Puget Sound each year?

Check out these seven helpful tips to prevent your crab pot from becoming one of them!

- **Avoid high traffic**, marine transit and ferry lanes.
- **Check tides and currents.** Avoid crabbing during strong tidal changes and currents.
- **Make buoys more visible.** Add a second buoy or a stick and flag.
- **Use a weighted line** to sink below the surface and avoid being cut by passing boats.
- **Weight your crab pots** so they do not move with currents or tidal changes.
- **Use longer line.** Use 1/3 more line than the water depth to allow for changes in tides and currents.
- **Secure lid and escape panels with cotton (biodegradable) escape cord.** Crabs can escape from lost pots after the cord degrades.

Enter to win new crabbing gear by completing this short survey: <http://goo.gl/fiwvhXB>

for more information visit
derelictgear.org

Northwest Straits INITIATIVE
partners in marine conservation

Speaking of crabbing, the [Northwest Straits Foundation](#) (NWSF) and [Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) (WDFW) hosted a crabber workshop, including rules, regulations, tips, and tricks to catch more crab. Check out the workshop's recording [here](#).

Be sure to check [MRC's website](#) for meeting information.

[Salmon Recovery](#)

The Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee (SRTCC) will meet on Wednesday, September 15 from 1-3pm via Zoom.

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.

Resources and Interesting Reads

Local News

WDFW updated the [terrestrial bird population abundance indicator](#), which monitors species that live in forest interiors or that are associated with humans. This is the first time reporting on this indicator, which informs the [Birds Vital Sign](#). Unfortunately, the progress of this indicator is "getting worse."

During the 2020 legislative session, Washington State Legislature passed a [statewide ban on single-use plastic bags](#), an effort to reduce plastic pollution, litter, and waste. The bag ban goes into effect on Friday, October 1. Read more [here!](#)

Funding Opportunities

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 the [Washington State Department of Ecology](#) (Ecology). The application period opens on Wednesday, September 1 and closes Thursday, October 14.

The application period for the [Federal Emergency Management Agency's \(FEMA\) Flood Mitigation Assistance \(FMA\) grant program](#) and the new [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\) grant program](#) will open on Thursday, September 30 and close on Friday, January 28, 2022. To learn more about these programs, check out [this Webinar Series](#), which runs until Wednesday, October 13.

Learn

In March, the [Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Project's \(PSEMP\) Nearshore Work Group](#) and WDFW's [Estuary and Salmon and Restoration Program \(ESRP\)](#) hosted the Nearshore Restoration Summit. About 80 speakers representing over 50 institutions presented to more than 500 registrants online. Discussions focused on Puget Sound beach, delta, and embayment shore forms. Presentations were recorded and are available [here](#).

Check out [this Storymap](#) from the [Puget Sound Restoration Fund](#), all about exploring Puget Sound's kelp forests.

Ecology's [Spill Prevention, Preparedness and Response Program](#) has released a new report: [Vessel Activity Synopsis: Maritime activity in the Northern Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca](#). This synopsis combines multiple data sources and analysis methods to provide a holistic view of 2018 vessel activity in the Salish Sea and to highlight areas and timeframes where vessel activities overlap.

Act!

The virtual [Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference](#) will be held virtually the week of April 25, 2022. They will be making a call for submissions this summer. Visit [here](#) for more details.

PSEMP's Steering Committee is seeking new members. Applications are due by Sunday, August 29. [Click 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, August 25	The ILIO Executive Committee will meet via Zoom from 10-11am.
Thursday, August 26	WSU Extension is hosting a webinar: Healthy Forest Understories and the Weeds that Get in the Way. Register here .
Tuesday, August 31	The Pacific States/British Columbia Task Force is hosting a 90-minute webinar entitled " Renewable fuels — Fundamentals, Future and Response Planning " from 10:30am-12pm.
Tuesday, September 7	The MRC will meet via Zoom from 3-5pm.
Wednesday, September 8	Ecology is hosting a free Marine Mammal Management in Oil Spill Response workshop at 8am.
Tuesday, September 14	The ILIO Technical Committee will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm.
Monday & Tuesday, September 13 & 14	UW Tacoma is hosting a virtual EMCON conference .

Wednesday, September 15	SRTCC will meet via Zoom from 1-3pm.
Wednesday, October 6	The Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner is hosting the 2021 Climate Summit. Register here.
Tuesday & Wednesday, October 29 & 20	Restore America's Estuaries and partners are hosting The 2021 Living Shorelines Tech Transfer Workshop.

Thank you for your interest in [Island County Natural Resources](#).

For more information, contact Ann Prusha: a.prusha@islandcountywa.gov.

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