



Natural Resources Newsletter

November 2021

Announcements

Lakes Monitoring Volunteer Opportunity

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.**

[Lone Lake Survey](#)

If you live in the Lone Lake Algae Management Area, please take [this survey](#) to help inform current land use and direct efforts to the needs of your community.

Programmatic Updates

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

The next ILIO Technical Committee (TC) meeting will be held Tuesday, December 14 from 1-3pm via Zoom.

The ILIO TC has been working on updating its Annual Work Plan and setting priorities for the upcoming year.

The [Puget Sound Partnership's \(PSP's\) 2021 State of the Sound Report](#) is out. It shows that all of our efforts to protect and restore Puget Sound have made an impact, but there is much more work to do.

The [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife \(WDFW\)](#) has updated the four [Toxics in Fish](#) indicators. The indicators measure chemical concentrations in the following fish to assess impacts of contaminants in different Puget Sound habitats: [Pacific herring](#) (open water), [adult resident Chinook salmon](#) (open water), [English sole](#) (benthic habitat), and [juvenile Chinook salmon](#) (estuarine and nearshore habitat). Progress is mixed. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) remain a problem

throughout the region, Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) are being reduced but remain a high concern for juvenile Chinooks in Snohomish and Puyallup rivers. Pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH)-induced liver disease in English sole has dramatically improved at several locations.

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, December 7 from 3-5pm via Zoom.

The MRC's 2021 annual report is available on our website. From monitoring on the beach and in the water to pulling weeds at a restoration site to educating elected officials, our volunteers have been hard at work, using their skills and expertise to advance marine resource protection and recovery. Learn all about it [here!](#)

You can also read more in-depth project reports on each of the project pages:

- [Forage Fish](#)
- [Bull Kelp](#)
- [Needs Assessment](#)



Thank you to all of the volunteers who came out to Cornet Bay and helped with vegetation maintenance at the MRC's restoration site in October! This event was hosted along with the [Whidbey Island Conservation District](#).

MRC's Forage Fish monitoring teams are out on the beach every month, **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. We are especially looking for people in or willing to commute to the Langley and Greenbank areas.

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

[Salmon Recovery](#)

The next Island County Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee (SRTCC) meeting will be held Wednesday, December 15 from 1-3pm via Zoom.

The [Salmon Recovery Funding Board](#) approved both of the projects that SRTCC submitted! The first project is Hoypus Point Shoreline Restoration. This project, located at Deception Pass State Park, will

involve the removal of 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 involve the removal of 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.



Hoypus Point. Photo credit: Northwest Straits Foundation

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 Jenn Johnson at Jennifer.Johnson@islandcountywa.gov if you or someone you know is interested in this opportunity.

SRTCC's Coordinator, Dawn Spilsbury Pucci, has stepped down from her role. Dawn has been an incredible champion of salmon recovery efforts in Island County and across the region. She will be greatly missed. Thank you, Dawn, for your years of service, and we are excited to see the amazing work that you will continue to do in your next chapter.



So long and thanks for all the fish! Top two photos from Island County DNR, bottom photo from Dawn Spilsbury Pucci.

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

Resources and Interesting Reads

Local News

[The Stillaguamish Tribe bought Triangle Cove!](#) On Camano Island, near Barnum Point, 219 acres of this estuary is set to be permanently protected. "Protecting and restoring these wetlands can help iconic and imperiled salmon, endangered Southern Resident orcas and countless other species, from crabs to birds, wildlife officials and researchers have said."

The [Whidbey Island Conservation District's](#) Annual Native Bareroot Plant Sale is happening now, and runs through Thursday, December 30. Check out their [Plant Sale Storefront](#).

Funding Opportunities

The [Washington State Clean Vessel Act Grant Program \(CVA\)](#) is now accepting applications for the 2021-2022 grant cycle. This program provides grant funding for the construction, renovation, operation and ongoing maintenance of sewage disposal systems serving recreational boaters. Public and private entities are eligible to apply. [Visit here](#) for more details. Applications are due by Friday,

January 21, 2022.

Check out the [Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program](#) (ESRP) Regional Pre-Design (Learning Program) [Request for Proposals](#). The ESRP Learning Program is a unique funding source that supports scientific investigations that directly inform nearshore process-based restoration with the goal of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of future capital restoration projects. [Visit here](#) for more details. There will be an [informational webinar](#) on Tuesday, November 23 from 3-4pm, which will be recorded and posted to the [Learning Program website](#). Pre-proposals are due by Tuesday, January 25, 2022.

Learn

The [Thurston Climate Action Team](#) has a series of upcoming events the weeks of November 8 and 15. [Visit here](#) for more details.

The [Whidbey Island](#) and [Snohomish Conservation Districts](#) are hosting a couple of virtual training opportunities to learn about raingardens. At the first one, [Is Your Raingarden Working?](#), you can learn about rain garden and bioretention assessment protocols. It takes place on Tuesday, November 16 at 6pm. The second one, [Rain Garden Training for Professionals](#), will help you learn how to build, plan, and maintain a rain garden, whether it's your own or a client's. It takes place on Thursday, November 18 from 6-8:30pm.



Raingarden example. Image Credit: Rain Dog Designs (click image for source).

[Sea Grant](#) has a webinar series about using community science to make decisions. The recording for last month's webinar, "Using Community Science for Decision Making: Coastal Flooding," has been posted to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's [YouTube page](#). The next webinar series will focus on beach monitoring data and will take place on Wednesday, November 17 from 12-1pm PST. [Register here](#).

The virtual 2022 [Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference](#) will be held April 26-28. The subject will be

Honoring our Ancestors: Visions for Future Generations and the Salish Sea. Registration will open in December.

Check out this [New York Times article](#) about the legal framework for Native American rights for salmon fishing.

The [Puget Sound Marine Waters 2020 Overview](#) is now out. It provides a collective view of 2020 Puget Sound marine water quality and conditions and associated biota from comprehensive monitoring and observing programs.

Act!

The [Washington State Department of Ecology](#) (Ecology) is considering revisions to [chapter 173-201A WAC \(salmon spawning habitat\), Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington](#). Please provide comments on the draft rulemaking language, including the Preliminary Technical Support Document, Preliminary Implementation Plan, and Preliminary Regulatory Analyses by Thursday, December 16. All draft documents, public hearing information, and instructions on how to comment are on Ecology's [rulemaking webpage](#).

WDFW is seeking public comment on their draft recovery plan for pinto abalone, a large species of sea snail that was listed as endangered in Washington in 2019. The recovery plan is available [here](#), and the public can provide comment on the plan [here](#) until Thursday, January 6, 2022.



Pinto abalone. Photo by Taylor Frierson (click image for source).

Event Rundown

Monday, November 15	The Municipal Research and Services Center of Washington is hosting a Developing a Local Climate Action Strategy: Approaches for Washington Local Governments webinar, which will take place at 12pm.
Tuesday,	The Is Your Raingarden Working? virtual training will be held at 6pm.

November 16	
Wednesday, November 17	The Using Community Science for Decision Making: Beach Monitoring webinar will take place at 12pm PST.
Thursday, November 18	The Rain Garden Training for Professionals virtual workshop will be held at 6pm.
Tuesday, November 23	The ESRP Learning Program grant competition informational webinar will take place from 3-4pm.
Thursday, December 2	Commissioner St. Clair will have a Town Hall at 4:30. The subject is "Let's Talk about Fish."
Tuesday, December 7	The MRC will meet from 3-5pm via Zoom.
Tuesday, December 14	The ILIO TC will meet from 1-3pm via Zoom.
Wednesday, December 15	SRTCC will meet from 1-3pm via Zoom.
Tuesday, April 26 - Thursday, April 28	The virtual 2022 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference will take place.

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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