

## WSU Snohomish County Extension Beach Watcher 2018 Research Projects



### **Intertidal Characterization at Local Parks**

Leads: Craig Wollam (Class of 2010) and  
Paul Granquist (Class of 2012)

Our public shorelines are gems that get lots of use. To understand how our beaches are changing, WSU Beach Watchers began collecting data on the biological communities that live at Kayak Point, Mukilteo Lighthouse Park, Edgewater Beach, Picnic Point and Edmonds Sunset Beach. We also collect data on algal coverage, topography (shape) of the beach and substrate (sediment)

distribution and sizes. Over time, we expect this data to tell a story of what changes are taking place.

### **Marine Water Quality Monitoring**

Leads: Tim Ellis (Class of 2015) & TBA

Snohomish County Beach Watchers assist Washington State Departments of Ecology and Health, and the Tulalip Tribes in assessing the water quality of Puget Sound swimming beaches in our county.

Swimming in contaminated recreational waters can cause illness. The mission of these projects to protect beach goers by testing the water at our beaches for fecal bacteria.

Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, WSU Beach Watchers take water samples at public beaches from Edmonds to Everett and at Mission Beach in Tulalip. Samples are then delivered to certified labs for fecal coliform analysis. If samples are high, the appropriate authorities take charge on notify the public and educating them on how to stay safe.



### **Model Volunteer Oil Spill Assessor and Response Program (2018-2019)**

This project proposes to create and implement a model community-based oil spill assessment and response effort that will serve as a model for other regions and expand citizen science data collection and quality. 2018 will serve as the assessment period with implementation in 2019.