



NATURAL RESOURCES VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: January 2020

North Olympic Salmon Coalition

It's planting party season! Volunteers needed.

It's time to plant when rain does the watering for us! Planting parties run from 10am-1pm, except the Pysht River events, which are from 9am-4pm. RSVP by calling 360-379-8051, or by using [this form](#) (also available on their website nosc.org).

- January 11: Discovery Bay
- January 22, 23: Pysht River, with the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
- February 8: Discovery Bay
- February 15, 19: Dungeness River, with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
- February 29: Siebert Creek, with the North Olympic Land Trust

Center for Environmental Law Policy

Talk with legislators about environmental policy in Washington State

The Center for Environmental Law Policy has a lobby day in Olympia on January 15th. Please contact Nick Manning nmanning@celp.org to find out more about the event, and how to participate.

Clallam Marine Resources Committee (MRC)

Committee members needed

The Clallam MRC has decided to expand the committee to include alternates for all member positions. Representative positions currently without an alternate are:

- Academic Community
- City of Port Angeles and City of Sequim
- Commissioner District I, II and III
- The Conservation and Environmental Interests
- The Development Community
- Port of Port Angeles
- Tourism and Recreation
- Two At-Large positions

The MRC advises the Board of Commissioners on issues related to the marine resources of Clallam County and sponsors projects that reflect local marine or shoreline-related priorities.

MRC members are expected to attend a 2-hour monthly evening meeting. Alternates for each position can participate in all MRC meetings, discussions and activities and will vote on issues when the Representative for that position is absent. In addition, the MRC members participate in Clallam MRC projects and help the committee respond to emerging issues. No experience is required, but previous involvement with education or marine natural resources is greatly appreciated.

Who We Are and What We Do?



The MRC is a project-based, citizen advisory group appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. Committee members represent the diverse interests of the community, including the three Commissioner Districts, environmental, recreational, academic, and commercial interests, local government agencies and the tribes. The MRC is part of the [Northwest Straits Initiative](#).

The Clallam MRC's focus area includes the marine waters and more than 100 miles of shoreline along the Strait of Juan de Fuca from Neah Bay to Gardiner. The group addresses issues related to marine life, habitats and water quality by providing advice to the BOCC and through science-based actions, stewardship projects and public outreach. MRC members decide which local projects are funded each year. Current areas of interest include native oyster restoration, kelp, forage fish, pigeon guillemot and shellfish monitoring, oil spill response, derelict gear removal and educational outreach.

Still not sure? Consider attending one of our monthly meetings to find out more about our group. For more information see our website <https://www.clallamcountymrc.org/> or contact Helle Andersen at handersen@co.clallam.wa.us or 360-417-2416.

Jefferson WSU Extension

Beach Naturalist Educator Volunteers for 2nd Graders Fort Worden, Port Townsend

Dawn Braden, a 2nd grade teacher at Salish Coast Elementary School, is asking for Beach Naturalists' help during their monthly 'field day' at Fort Worden. At Fort Worden they focus on different aspects of the natural environment. They would love to learn more about anything from erosion to bull kelp. Volunteers would be talking to a group of 18 students at a time, giving the same information twice as there as 2 groups of roughly 18 students. 10-15 minutes for a talk and activity, then allowing time to answer questions after that. There is 1 certified teacher with each group of 18 and possibly 1 or 2 parent volunteers also present. Classes are at Fort Worden from 8:45 am - 1:30 pm on the days listed below:

January 24, 2020
February 21, 2020
March 20, 2020
April 24, 2020
May 29, 2020

Dawn says they are open to whatever topics/areas of expertise you all have. We know that kids protect what they love, and love what they know, so we want them to know more about all living creatures at the beach. It can be either a series of talks or just one or two individual talks. She's happy to work with you ahead of time about topics and about second grade level expectations. Contact Dawn Braden at dbraden@ptschools.org.

Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee

Forage Fish Spawner Surveys

Once a month, Nov – March, variable times and dates based on low daylight tides.

Jefferson MRC will be heading to the beach this winter to do forage fish spawning surveys. Forage fish are small schooling fishes that are food for larger predatory fish and wildlife in the marine food web (critical for survival of marine birds, salmon, marine mammals and thus Orcas). MRC citizen science volunteers collect sediment samples from several beaches and look for the presence of surf smelt and sand lance eggs. Project leads are trained in WDFW protocols; assistants are needed to help collect and process sediment samples. Besides having an excuse to be on the beach in winter, you'll be contributing to regional efforts to understand more about these fish and where they spawn. For more info or to be added to the notification list for future sampling dates, contact Cheryl Lowe, Cheryl.lowe@wsu.edu

Port Townsend Marine Science Center

Find out how to be a PTMSC volunteer at <https://ptmsc.org/get-involved/volunteer>

New Volunteer Information Sessions

Attend a session and learn about PTMSC and the volunteer opportunities available. Orientations are 4-5:30 pm in the Museum classroom (building 502, on the shore)

Upcoming 2020 Orientation dates are:

- Tuesday, January 14, 2020
- Tuesday, February 18, 2020

For more information or to RSVP, contact Mandi or Gabriele at volunteer@ptmsc.org

Learning More on Your Own

Lectures, meetings and workshops

Future of Oceans Lecture Series 2020

Port Townsend Marine Science Center, Port Townsend

Recent changes in Large Whale Occurrence and Threats in Washington

Sunday, January 12, 3 p.m.

Fort Worden Chapel, Fort Worden State Park

John Calambokidis is a Research Biologist and one of the founders of Cascadia Research, a non-profit research organization formed in 1979 based in Olympia, Washington. He periodically (1991-2012) serves as an Adjunct Faculty at the Evergreen State College teaching a course on marine mammals. His primary interests are the biology of marine mammals and the impacts of humans. As a Senior Research Biologist at Cascadia Research he has served as Project Director of over 100 projects. He has authored two books on marine mammals as well as more than 150 publications in scientific journals and technical reports. He has conducted studies on a variety of marine mammals in the North Pacific from Central America to Alaska. He has directed long-term research on the status, movements, and underwater behavior of blue, humpback, and gray whales. His work has been covered on shows by Discovery Channel and others and has been featured in National Geographic TV specials and a magazine article in 2009.

More info about the lecturer: <http://www.cascadiaresearch.org/page/biologists-cascadia-research>

Contact: calambokidis@cascadiaresearch.org . Admission \$5 (students & teachers are free).

The Story of Water: In-Depth

League of Women Voters

All lectures start at 6:30 in the Sequim City Hall Council Chambers

January 15, 2020 Water Law in Washington: Who Owns the Water and What Are Our Rights? *Mike Gallagher, WA Department of Ecology and Lindsey Schromen-Wawrin Shearwater Law PLLC, Port Angeles*

February 19, 2020 Irrigators and Protectors: Rights and Conservation Actions Exercised by Our Farmers *Joe Holtrop, Clallam Conservation District*(Series continues through June 2020)

Friends of Ennis Creek (Port Angeles)

Guided walks to Ennis Creek are being offered by appointment starting Monday, Dec. 2.

The free walks will focus on lower Ennis Creek, near Highway 101 and can include opportunities to see some areas where habitat has been improved as well as those still needing restoration. Friends of Ennis Creek is sponsoring the walks as the group's first activity after reorganizing earlier this fall.

The newly expanded Friends group wants to encourage understanding and actions to benefit fish habitat in Ennis Creek by helping people see the great contrasts restoration work makes. Lower Elwha Klallam Tribal members and Fisheries Habitat Biologist/Manager Mike McHenry have made significant habitat improvements on a North Olympic Land Trust conservation easement on the creek. In addition to coho salmon, Ennis Creek hosts cutthroat trout and endangered steelhead. Appointments for stream walks are available by contacting ennis@olyphen.com or phoning 360-808-3139.

Further Reading

WSU Shore Stewards Newsletter

"Zooming in on Microorganisms" <https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2144/2019/11/Fall-2019-Zooming-in-on-Microorganisms-Part-1.pdf>