



Clallam/Jefferson County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

WSU Water Resource Volunteers

October 2020

Dear WSU Extension Water Resources Volunteers,

Happy Fall! We have a new list of local and global virtual events and educational resources for you! I'd love to hear from you about ways you've stayed engaged in caring for our water resources whether with a local organization or on your own, and if you come across any exciting opportunities you want to share with others - don't hesitate to

[email me.](#)

While in the past we've recruited volunteers to help the Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee and WSU Extension Water Program install rain gardens, we've kept it to just staff this year to ensure safety guidelines were in practice. Just last week, we put in a new rain garden at the corner of Benton and Clay Streets in Uptown Port Townsend! This rain garden will help capture stormwater and reduce the amount of harmful contaminants flowing into Port Townsend Bay. Check it out next time you're in the neighborhood!



Lastly, here's a great [article](#) from UW on the benefits of getting your "dose" of nature for improving mental health and well-being, even if only virtually. Hope this newsletter is helping to provide some of that dosage and that you're all staying well.

Have a wonderful month of learning and exploring,

Monica Montgomery, Jefferson County Water Programs Coordinator

Volunteer Opportunities

Attention Boaters!

Please take this ~5 minute [survey](#) meant to serve as an educational tool for you and as a helpful tool for WA Sea Grant in their efforts to improve Washington State's waters and beaches.

Jefferson County Shoreline Master Program Update

Jefferson County is currently undertaking a periodic review of its Shoreline Master Program (SMP). The review ensures the SMP stays current with changes in laws and rules, remains consistent with other Jefferson County plans and regulations, and is responsive to changed circumstances, new information and improved data. You can contribute to this process! Here is the county's [public participation plan](#), a community [survey](#) about local shorelines and the current SMP (deadline of Nov. 30th), and the SMP [website](#) for more information.

City of Port Townsend Shoreline Master Program Update

The City of PT is also currently undertaking a periodic review of its SMP! You can access the current SMP and more information [here](#), and know that public comment will be accepted throughout the process.

Toxics in Fish Implementation Strategy - Public Comment

The Toxics in Fish Implementation Strategy outlines a recovery plan that is focused on

reducing the levels and impacts of contaminants on Puget Sound aquatic life and the people who consume them. It includes a series of strategies that will prevent, mitigate, and cleanup toxics in aquatic life throughout Puget Sound. The public review draft of the Implementation Strategy (split into several components) is located here: [Toxics in Fish Implementation Strategy](#). Comments on the Toxics in Fish strategy will be accepted through **October 16th**. More information can be found [here](#).

MyCoast: Washington

Download the "MyCoast.org" app on your smart phone or visit <https://mycoast.org/wa>, create an account, then contribute photos and observations of beach changes, storm surges and king tide events, large marine debris, creosote, and abandoned vessels. Information collected through the app and website is used to help inform coastal decision-makers, emergency managers, and stakeholders. More information can be found [here](#).

Crab Team Volunteer Toolbox

WA Sea Grant, WDFW, and other partners have teamed up to lead a volunteer-based early detection and monitoring program to improve our understanding of native salt marsh and pocket estuary organisms, and how they could be affected by the invasive European green crabs (*Carcinus maenas*). While official volunteer training and opportunities may not be available quite yet, you can start reviewing protocol presentations and buffing up on your identification skills with videos, quizzes, and flashcards [online](#).

COASST Beached Birds and Marine Debris Toolboxes

While official volunteer training and opportunities may not be available for new participants, you can start reviewing training videos and protocols for [Beached Birds](#) and [Marine Debris](#) programs.

Learning More On Your Own

Online Courses, Lectures and Events

Smart Oceans 2020 - NSF

When: Monday-Friday, October 5, 7, & 9

If you're interested in oceans, register for this National Science Foundation-sponsored series of workshops that aim to accelerate the convergence between academic, industry, government agencies and foundations. These workshops are intended to explore ongoing challenges and emerging opportunities in ocean innovation, exploration, and utilization.  Review the agenda [here](#) and register [here](#).

How Antarctic and High Seas Protection Can Help Save Half the Planet - PEW Charitable Trusts & IUCN

When: Wednesday, October 7, 10AM

As calls increase for the world to protect at least 30% of the ocean, how can this goal be achieved? This webinar explores how two timely governance mechanisms can address marine conservation challenges: the UN High Seas Treaty, and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), which is holding its 39th annual meeting in late October, 2020. Register [here](#).

Annual Stewardship Celebration - PT Marine Science Center

When: Wednesday, October 7, 10AM

During this event, you'll get a live tour of the Puget Sound Restoration Fund and The Marine Science Center Aquarium to meet the people behind the successful Abalone Project. The project is educating the public about the inspiring story of the effort to rescue the endangered pinto abalone from extinction. Get up close and personal with these fascinating marine mollusks! More information and registration link [here](#).

Revive - EarthCorps

When: Wednesday, October 7, 10AM

Join EarthCorps for a virtual trip around the globe with their annual fundraiser event. You'll hear from changemakers across the globe, find inspiration in how they tackle critical issues in their communities, and meet plenty of special guests along the way - there is so much to celebrate in our global community. More information and registration [here](#).

Connecting Our Blue Planet: Building Ecologically Connected MPA Networks - Open Channels

When: Wednesday, October 14, 7AM

Two recent reports highlight the importance of both protecting and leveraging connectivity conservation for successful MPA management. Both the IUCN "Guidelines for conserving connectivity through ecological networks and corridors" and the National MPA Center brief "Ecological Connectivity for Marine Protected Areas" make the case for ecological connectivity and provide practical recommendations for moving marine conservation forward by increasing consideration and application of fundamental ecological connectivity processes. This webinar will provide an overview of these reports and serve to stimulate discussions and actions that lead to greater protection of ecological connectivity as part of marine conservation. Register for the webinar [here](#).

2020 Salish Sea Shared Waters Forum

When: Wednesday and Thursday, October 14-15, 10AM

The 2020 Forum is the third of a three-year series intended to help advance our collective knowledge about current spill prevention and response policies and practices in place in Washington State and B.C. It is hosted by the Washington State Department of Ecology and the B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and is a non-voting and non-decision-making entity. This virtual event is free and open to the public. You can register for the event [here](#) and find more information about the Oil Spill Task Force and efforts [here](#).

Salute to the Sound - Puget SoundKeeper

When: Monday-Friday, October 19-23

Join Puget SoundKeeper for their 17th annual Salute to the Sound Celebration of Clean Water, Gala & Auction! Take part in a week of fun and educational online events with their silent auction starting on Monday, October 19, 2020 and wrapping up with a live event on Friday, October 23rd at 7:00pm. Help support Puget Soundkeeper's work to protect and preserve the waters of Puget Sound by joining - tickets are free! More information [here](#).

The Clean Currents Coalition: A Global Collaborative Solution to the Complex Plastics Problem - Open Channels

When: Tuesday, October 20, 11AM

The Clean Currents Coalition is a global network of 9 teams combatting the flow of plastic waste from river systems to the ocean. The Coalition are piloting technologies for physical capture of plastic waste in polluted rivers and catalyzing policy-based, infrastructural, and societal change to reduce plastic waste leakage into those rivers. Join the webinar to learn more about the solutions championed by Coalition member teams. Register for the webinar [here](#).

Hood Canal Shellfish Summit

When: Thursday, October 22, 12:30-3:30PM (Register by October 15)

Representatives from Hood Canal ecosystem recovery partners, local governments and tribes, and the Hood Canal community will come together to discuss protecting and enhancing our critical shellfish resources. Speakers will be featured, and the draft Hood Canal Shellfish Initiative Action Plan will be presented with opportunities to provide feedback. An agenda and other materials will be available soon. Register for the event [here](#). More information about the Hood Canal Shellfish Initiative (HCSI) and the Action Plan development process can be found [here](#).

Educational (and Fun) Videos

The Olympic Coast as a Sentinel

This 18-minute [film](#) highlights the effects of ocean acidification on the Olympic Coast's marine resources and communities, especially the local Native American tribes who are rooted in this place and depend on marine treaty-protected resources.

U.S. States Leading on Climate-Ocean Action

Hear from leaders, including our governor, Jay Inslee, who are helping to promote and drive actions that address the causes of ocean acidification and increase biodiversity, adaptive capacity and resiliency of coastal communities. These talks took place during Climate Week NYC from September 21-27, in coordination with the [United Nations General Assembly](#) and the City of New York. You can access this video and others addressing ocean acidification [here](#).

Shore Friendly Living - Coastal Bluffs and Beaches

This [video](#) is the first in a series made by the Northwest Straits Foundation in partnership with other Shore Friendly programs across Puget Sound. The Shore Friendly program was created to provide shoreline landowners with resources to maintain and protect their investments while also protecting the fish and wildlife that need healthy nearshore habitats to thrive.

7th Annual River and Ocean Festival

In case you missed the registration link in our last newsletter, you can access all the films from this year's virtual festival [here](#)! The River and Ocean Film Festival is an annual event sponsored this year by the North Pacific Coast Marine Resources Committee, and Washington Sea Grant. Films from the past seven years can be accessed [here](#).

Huxley Speaker Series Archives

Here is a treasure trove of [talks](#) focused on the Salish Sea bioregion dating back to 2013, hosted by the Western Washington University Huxley College of the Environment. You are bound to find a speaker and topic that peaks your interest here!

UW School of Aquatic and Fisheries Science's YouTube Library

[Here](#) is another treasure trove of talks to enhance your understanding of all things aquatic.

Live Cams

Although we may not be able to get out to our favorite beaches or aquariums during this time, these live cams allow for even closer encounters with marine life: [jellies](#), [otters](#), [sea lions](#), [orcas](#), and [many others](#).

Readings and Other Resources

Salish Sea Currents Special Report: 2020 Climate Issue

This is the fourth issue of the magazine and the first one dedicated to a single theme, addressing the impact of climate change on the Salish Sea ecosystem. While this collection is not a report about climate change itself, it is a lens through which to view current ecosystem recovery efforts. Taken individually, these stories represent some of the most critical research being conducted in the Salish Sea. You can access the report [here](#).

From "Taking" to "Tending": Learning About Indigenous Land and Resource Management on the Pacific Northwest Coast of North America

Over the millennia, Indigenous peoples of the northwestern North American coast have built up an immense body of local knowledge, practice, and belief enabling them to live well; learn about the plants and animals of terrestrial, aquatic, and marine environments

on which they have depended; and understand how to harvest and process these resources into nutritious foods, healing medicines, and useful materials. Although it has been commonly assumed that these people, as so-called “hunter-gatherers”, were simply helping themselves to nature’s provisions, ethnobotanist Nancy Turner shares insights and examples of how First Peoples have rather carefully tended and managed these resource systems over countless generations. Read about her insights and examples of traditional marine and coastal resource management practices in this [article](#).

What Tear Gas Does to Fish

Tear gas, also known as CS gas, is a complicated compound. It has different chemical constituents depending on the manufacturer, but the main ingredient is 2-chlorobenzalmalononitrile. The one known study on the effects of CS on aquatic organisms found that concentrations as low as 0.2 to 0.3 milligrams per liter - an extremely low concentration - could kill rainbow trout. Read more [here](#) about how one ecologist is taking initiative to study the ecotoxicological effects of chemical munitions.

Wetlands - Salish Magazine

In this [Fall 2020 issue](#) you’ll discover the incredible beauty of some of our local wetland areas that you can explore, whether on foot or by kayak. Read about all the different types of wetlands (swamps, bogs, ponds, estuaries, and more), the lifeforms they support, and how they function to maintain life as we know it.

Does the Public Have a Right to Walk Across a Private Beach? The Answer is Still Unresolved

After 131 years of statehood, residents of Washington still don’t know if they have a legal right to walk across a privately owned beach at low tide. Read more about the complexities of this topic [here](#).

Probing For Answers to Control Seal Populations

Federal authorization to kill more than 700 sea lions to protect salmon runs along the Columbia River is prompting discussions of similar actions for harbor seals in Puget Sound. But experts say the situations are very different with many unanswered questions. Read more [here](#).

Coastal Job: Whale Snot Collector

Here's a quick and much more lighthearted [read](#) - how one marine mammal biologist uses a non-invasive technique, collecting mucus from whale “blow” as the animals exhale, to study beluga whales.

Marine Debris in Our Backyard - Coastal Café

Coastal Café is a radio program that explores the latest in marine science with researchers, policy experts and people who live and work along our coast. This [episode](#), aired on September 30th, features Andrew Mason, the Pacific Northwest Regional Coordinator and Pacific Region team lead for NOAA's Marine Debris Program, who shares what types of debris gathers in the Pacific Northwest and how boaters and beach goers alike can all help reduce the debris on our beaches and in our water.

WSU Shore Stewards Newsletter

Shore Stewards is published 4-6 times per year, and is full of great information about marine science, and living on our Pacific Northwest shorelines. View the latest edition on xeriscaping (Fall 2020) [here](#).

WSU Water Currents Newsletter

Water Currents is a free online publication produced by WSU Extension's Water Resources Team focused on projects and research on Washington's water quality. View the latest issue (Fall 2020) [here](#).

The Encyclopedia of Puget Sound

Want more to read? The [Encyclopedia of Puget Sound](#) provides a wide range of articles

related to Puget Sound in over 90 different categories, including algae, invertebrates, stormwater, tidal energy, human quality of life and traditional ecological knowledge. This website has the most comprehensive and up-to-date information readily available.

Recording Volunteer Hours

Dear 2018 and 2019 Stream Stewards and Beach Naturalists,

Report all volunteer hours in the online [WSU Volunteer Database](#). We ask that you record your hours, so that we can report back to granting agencies that their money was well invested in our programs, and also so that we can seek funding to hold Beach Naturalist and Stream Stewards classes in the future!

Your user name: The email that you submitted when you took the Stream Stewards class

Your password (unless you changed it): *password!*

Still have questions? Take a look at these [instructions for Recording Volunteer Hours](#), or call your program manager.

Please only use the WSU Volunteer Database, that is linked above, to record hours. Databases, such as Volunteerhours.net, that Jefferson WSU Extension used previously are no longer in use (as of August 27, 2019).

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