



Island County

Serving the communities of Camano & Whidbey Islands

Island County Natural Resources Newsletter July 2024

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Natural Resources Newsletter

July 2024

Announcements



New Team Member!

Renée Zavas Silva is excited to be joining Island County Public Health as a surface water quality specialist.

She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies with a specialization in Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Prior to this, Renée completed an Associate of Science in Landscape Horticulture at Cabrillo College, where she earned multiple skills certificates in horticulture and crop production.

Her coursework directly relates to her current position, encompassing physical and biological sciences with a focus on aquatic ecology, soil science, sustainable agriculture, and environmental problem solving. Renée previously served as a Critical Areas Planner at Island County's Planning & Community

Development department and prior to that worked as a field and lab technician for an environmental, civil, and geotechnical engineering consulting firm.

In Renée's free time she enjoys gardening, kayaking and hiking with her dog and husband. Renée moved to Whidbey after falling in love with the incredible nature and wildlife here and is excited to be able to contribute to the health of both the natural ecosystems and the people here in this community who have welcomed her with open arms..

Programmatic Updates

Salmon Recovery

The next Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee (SRTCC) meeting will be held Wednesday **July 31st from 2:00-4:00 pm.**

For more information please contact Clea Barenburg, Lead Entity Program Coordinator
c.barenburg@islandcountywa.gov.

The SRTCC will be discussing the review, scoring, ranking and approval of the project list for the proposals in the 2024 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Grant Round. SRFB decision for project funding allocation will be on September 21.

Marine Resources Committee

The next Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting is on **July 2nd from 2:00-4:00 pm.**

Join the Zoom Meeting [using this link.](#)

Meeting ID: 810 5664 1008

Passcode: 566046

Conservation Futures Program - Citizens Advisory Board

The next CFP Citizens Advisory Board meeting is on **July 17th at 10:30 am.**

The location will be confirmed on our website. Please visit the [Citizens Advisory Board page](#) for more details.

Events

MRC Stewardship Event

July 10th from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, Cornet Bay & Hoypus Point

The Island County Marine Resources Committee and the NW Straits Foundation are hosting multiple stewardship events to continue the great work at the Cornet Bay and Hoypus Point restoration sites.

Our partners include the Northwest Straits Foundation, Washington State Parks, Island County, and Sound Water Stewards. This project has helped provide more natural habitats for our marine species that utilize this bay, including juvenile salmonids.

For more information, [click here to visit the website.](#)

Learn + Act

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Help us protect the Salish Sea!
The Marine Resources Committee seeks your insights on our efforts and your support in preserving our marine environment.

- We are looking for 2 Camano citizens to serve on the Committee
- Forestry & Agriculture backgrounds are desirable but not necessary

For more information contact
k.zupich@islandcountywa.gov

islandcountymrc.org



APPLY NOW



Volunteer with Us!

Help us protect the Salish Sea! The Marine Resources Committee seeks your insights on our efforts and your support in preserving our marine environment. We are looking for two Camano citizens to serve on the Committee. Forestry and Agriculture backgrounds are desirable, but not necessary.

For more information, please contact Kelly Zupich via email [by clicking this link](mailto:k.zupich@islandcountywa.gov).

Swimming Tips to Minimize Risk

Anyone who uses nearshore waters for recreational purposes such as swimming, scuba diving, surfing, or kayaking can be exposed to illness associated with water contaminated by sewage or other water-borne pathogens. After swimming, it is always a good idea to shower and wash your hands before eating. This is especially true if you've been in contact with the water or sand.

For other swimming tips that keep you safe this summer, please visit the Department of Ecology website [using this link](#).

Help Your Beach



Help your beach to prevent future advisories and closures this summer with these tips:

DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Pick up after your pet: Pick it up, bag it, and throw it in the trash. Contact with pet waste can make people sick and possibly cause disease. Also, nutrients from dog poop can feed the growth of aquatic plants and algae. As these decay, they use up oxygen in the water that fish and other aquatic life need.

Pick up your trash: When you visit the beach, bring along a litter bag so you can pack out whatever trash you create during your visit and dispose properly.

Help children keep water clean: Children should take frequent bathroom breaks. Diapers should be changed frequently, and a swim diaper should be worn while playing in or near the water. Dispose of diapers in the trash.

Swim only when well: Swimmers should stay out of the water when they are sick, especially with diarrhea. Protect yourself from unnecessary exposure or from transmitting illness-causing bacteria to others.

Boaters! Don't discharge: Recreational boaters should discharge bilge water and sewage-holding tanks only in approved disposal facilities. See [Washington State Pumpout Locations](#) (at State Parks) for a map of where to pump. If you discharge into the water or near the beach, you can contribute to fecal bacteria in the water.

Anglers - put fish guts and heads in the trash; use bathroom facilities: When fishing, use appropriate bathroom facilities; human waste can cause disease. Dispose of fish entrails at designated areas or garbage cans. Fish entrails attract wildlife, increasing fecal waste on the beach.

Don't feed wildlife: Birds and other animals will congregate in the feeding area, increasing wildlife waste on the beach.

You can also stay updated on water quality at local beaches by checking the BEACH Program swimming map (<https://ecology.wa.gov/water-shorelines/water-quality/saltwater/beach-program>), or by following us on social media.

Salmon Life Cycle Kid's Activity

"Baby Salmon Live Here" is the theme for the Summer 2024 educational series sponsored by Sound Water Stewards! The Lead Entity from Island County will be out on Camano helping with events this summer.

Come on out to see the Island County Public Health booth at the **Camano Kid Fest on July 27th**. Our Island County representative at the event will have a fun salmon life cycle flip book craft for kids to make, allowing them to learn about marine wildlife in a hands-on way!



Thank you for your interest in Island County Natural Resources.

For more information, contact Jen Schmitz: J.Schmitz@islandcountywa.gov or 360-914-0841.

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