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Island County Natural Resources Newsletter September 2024

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Natural Resources Newsletter

September 2024

Announcements



Photo credit: Johnny Armstrong

Key Findings from Tribal Listening Sessions

Dive into this interesting report, with results suggesting Northwest coastal Tribes face significant barriers and unmet needs in realizing their adaptation goals, despite being leaders in climate adaptation. Key barriers and needs focus around five key areas: funding; Tribal staff and workforce capacity; collaboration and partnerships; technical assistance and climate services; and communication, education and outreach.

Read the report here [at this link](#).



Volunteers Monitor Bull Kelp, a Key 'Ecosystem Engineer'

Our MRSC volunteers were featured in the Whidbey -Times for their work monitoring bull kelp for a collaborative project studying kelp in the Salish Sea. Bull kelp is an annual seaweed, growing from a spore to maturity in a single year. It can reach up to 100 feet tall at a rate of 10 inches per day. Of the 17 species of kelp in the Salish Sea, bull kelp is the only one that provides canopy. It can serve as a refuge from changing environmental pressures and a rest from predators for juvenile animals. Fisheries rely on kelp and seagrass for these reasons.

[Check out the link](#) to discover what we have been up to and read the rest of this piece.

Programmatic Updates

Marine Resources Committee

The Island County Marine Resources Committee (MRC) is an advisory body to county government established in 1999 and comprised of many community volunteers who represent diverse interests and industries, with the common goal to protect and restore marine resources in the Puget Sound area through scientific monitoring, restoration projects, and community education.

The next MRC meeting will be held virtually on September 3rd, 2024 from 4-6PM.

Join using [this link via Zoom](#).

Meeting ID: 810 5664 1008

Passcode: 566046

Citizen's Advisory Board

To ensure the properties purchased with Conservation Futures tax dollars are used in the best possible manner, the Conservation Futures Program Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) was created by the Board of County Commissioners to evaluate and make recommendations on project applications.

The next CFP CAB meeting will be in-person on September 5th, 2024 in Admin Room 116.

Use [this link for more information](#).

Salmon Recovery

The next Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee (SRTCC) meeting will be held Wednesday, September 18th from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. Please visit the Island County Salmon Recovery website ([link here](#)) for upcoming meeting agendas and minutes.

For more information on this meeting please contact, Lead Entity Program Coordinator c.barenburg@islandcountywa.gov.

SRTCC will be reviewing recent projects and discussing the final ranked list for the 2024 SRFB Grant Round. Final funding decisions will be made on September 24-25th at the SRFB Meeting. Additional information on the SRFB Grant Round process can be found at: Salmon Recovery and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration - RCO ([wa.gov](#)).

Learn + Act

A New Beginning for Endangered Chinook

Check out this article written in "Salish Sea Currents" magazine about Chinook habitat recovery on the Stillaguamish river. Eric Wagner writes about his experience with Brian Hendrichs with the Skagit River System Cooperative and Emily Howe with The Nature Conservancy as they collected data to assess the Chinook stock in the Port Susan Bay.

Read the article by [clicking this link](#).



Photo Courtesy of the Sound Water Stewards.

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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