



Island County

Serving the communities of Camano & Whidbey Islands

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Natural Resources Newsletter August 2024

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Natural Resources Newsletter

August 2024

Announcements



Kidsfest Craft and "Baby Salmon Live Here"

Clea Barenburg, our Island County Lead Entity coordinator for Salmon Recovery, hosted a booth sponsored by Island County Public Health at the 5th annual Camano Kids Fest! This program provided the opportunity to dive into the salmon cycle of life and connections with local salmon and their importance to the food webs of the waters around Camano Island and the greater Puget Sound region. This event included the opportunity to create a flip book craft focusing on the salmon life cycle.

The Island Lead Entity and Public Health staff were excited to share their experience and understanding of salmon and the role Island County projects play in contributing to recovery in the Salish Sea, which complemented the Sound Water Stewards booth and summer event with focus on “Baby Salmon Live Here”.

The Lead Entity Coordinator will be out at other Sound Water Stewards Events this summer and the Island County Natural Resources staff are happy to collaborate on this summer Camano outreach, working to educate the public with hopes of improving understanding of local restoration projects and their importance to Salmon recovery in Puget Sound.

Hundreds of local families and staff members enjoyed the perfect weather for the Kidfest and reported an enjoyable and informative experience. They came away with an understanding of the importance of Camano’s streams, estuaries and shorelines and how recent projects and recovery work support the local salmon populations of our area.

For more SWS events on Camano, [click here](#).

For more information about Island County Salmon Recovery, [click here](#).

Programmatic Updates

Salmon Recovery

The next Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee (SRTCC) meeting will be held Wednesday August 21st from 2:00-4:00 pm.

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

At the August meeting, SRTCC will be discussing the final ranked list for the 2024 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Grant Round. SRFB decision for project funding allocation will be on September 21.

Events

MRC Stewardship Event

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

Be A Salmon Scientist- Iverson Spit Preserve

The Sound Water Stewards hosted the “Be a Salmon Scientist” event, teaching community members how scientists use beach seining to count venerable salmon species on Camano Island.

Attendees were led by Barbara Brock, SWS class of 2002, and 2010 Jan Holmes Coastal Volunteer of the Year. Barbara Brock has been an involved community member in local efforts to protect and recover salmon habitat for over 20 years. She was also joined by Clea Barenburg, Island County Department of Natural Resources Salmon Recovery Lead Entity, and staff from Sound Salmon Solutions.

The Iverson Spit Preserve is a hometown favorite, known for its sandy beach and diverse wildlife. As part of the Saratoga Passage Marine Stewardship Area, it is a crucial habitat for baby salmon:

“Nestled between Camano and Whidbey Islands, Saratoga Passage is the primary marine highway for recreational boaters traveling between Puget Sound’s population centers to the south and the San Juan Islands to the north. This sheltered passage is sometimes

called the salmon highway for its many excellent forage fish spawning beaches and nearly continuous eelgrass beds, which provide food and refuge to migrating salmon.

Three large fish-producing river systems open into Saratoga Passage and nearby Port Susan — the Skagit, Stillaguamish and Snohomish. Small estuaries, lagoons and creek mouths dot the shore, giving young salmon a place to rest and adjust to saltwater after leaving their rivers. Glacial bluffs slough till to the beaches, replenishing spawning gravels for the sand lance and surf smelt on which they rely". - Salmon Recovery Board

For more events that you can attend, watch the [Sound Water Stewards Event Calendar](#) for more information.



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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