

Island County Natural Resources Newsletter January 2025

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Natural Resources
Newsletter

January 2025

Announcements



Salmon Recovery Request for Proposals

Salmon Recovery Request for Proposals for funding in 2025! Please see the Island County Salmon Recovery Funding Board section of the website for more information on the 2025 grant round supported by your local Lead Entity. Lead Entities are local, watershed-based organizations in Washington that solicit, develop, prioritize, and submit habitat protection and restoration projects for funding to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB).

Due date for letters of intent is January 13th!

For more information about the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, [click here](#).

State of the Salmon in Watersheds - [Statewide Habitat Data](#)

Puget Sound Regional Recovery - [Recovery Plan Progress in Puget Sound](#)



Island County Conservation Futures Fund Program

The Island County Conservation Futures Fund Program 2025 funding cycle begins January 15th, 2025 for both acquisition and M&O. The CFP will have a new application format and funding budget.

For more information, [please click this link](#).

Programmatic Updates

Salmon Recovery Technical & Citizen's Committee (SRTCC)

The Salmon Recovery Technical & Citizen's Committee meets on the third Wednesday of each month. The work focus is within the Water Resources Inventory Area (WRIA) 6. Please contact our new lead entity Jessica Reed if you are interested in joining this committee.

This month's meeting will occur on January 15th, 2025, 2pm-4pm.

The SRTCC prioritizes and supports salmon recovery projects, provides technical assistance, revises the Salmon Recovery Plan, and ensures projects align with community goals. They act as a hub for salmon-related efforts, secure funding, promote scientific research, and educate the public on ecosystem processes vital to salmon recovery.

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

Learn + Act

Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Program



Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) programs are identified in the Puget Sound Action Agenda as an essential component in restoring and protecting the many shellfish beds in the Puget Sound region. Implemented by many local governments, the program aims to focus pollution identification efforts in targeted areas that have significant impacts on shellfish beds. Island County obtained grant funding in 2024 which will be used to focus on the shellfish growing areas of Maple Grove on Camano Island, the Freeland Park region of Holmes Harbor, and the Dave Mackie Memorial Park area of the Maxwellton watershed.

The goals of the PIC program are to use water quality data to identify areas of fecal pollution and then collaborate with other departments to facilitate corrective action(s) to be taken. These include septic education, outreach, voluntary compliance, and any other corrective actions deemed necessary based on partnering departmental procedures. The program is used in tandem with guidance from Washington Department of Health and Washington Department of Ecology to find practical and tangible solutions to pollution problems in our county.

For more information on how you can help in your area, [visit our website](#).

Shore Friendly Living - Restoring the Connection Between Land and Water



This video is part of 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.

Although we may view the upland portion of the beach as separate from the marine waters, the trees, shrubs, insects, and birds of the upland are actually intrinsically connected to the marine waters and the animals that live there.

This video takes a look at the bigger picture of the marine ecosystem by showing the connection between all of the species that use the shoreline, and how bulkheads, or other forms of shoreline armoring, disrupt that ecological balance.

[Click this link to watch the video.](#)


Resources and more information:

- [Shore Friendly Program | Island County, WA](#)

- <https://nwstraitsfoundation.org/>

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Shoreline Trivia





Shoreline TRIVIA!

Roughly what percentage of the Puget Sound’s Shoreline has hard armoring?

A) 25%
B) 15%
C) 5%
D) 8%

* Answer in the caption



This design was prepared by the Island County Shore Friendly Program which is funded wholly or in part by the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program, and Habitat Strategic Initiative Lead.

The Answer is A! The primary goal of the Shore Friendly program is to help landowners protect their investments while maintaining healthy near-shore habitats.

Shore Friendly Plant of the Month

Kinnikinnick is a versatile groundcover that helps with surface erosion. It grows best in well drained soils on gentle to steep slopes.

Do you have questions about your shoreline property? [Request a visit.](#)



PLANT OF THE MONTH!



DISCOVER THE KINNIKINNICK (ARCTOSTAPHYLOS UVA-URSI)

DESCRIPTION

Height: 6-12+ Inches
Leaves: Alternate, simple, oblong, up to 1 inch long, glossy dark green above and lighter below.
Flowers: Perfect (male and female), white with a pink tinge, and nodding urn-shaped.
Fruit: Bright red drupes may appear in late summer.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR SHORELINE PROPERTY?





Kinnikinnick is a versatile groundcover that helps with surface erosion. It grows best in well drained soils on gentle to steep slopes.



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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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