



Salish Sea Stewards - 2026 Training Schedule

Each session will meet at the training room at the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (10441 Bayview Edison Rd, Mount Vernon, WA 98273) from 1 pm – 5 pm on Tuesdays from February 10th to April 14th.

Please email your questions to salishseastewards@gmail.com.

Training 1– February 10, 2026

Time: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Theme: Welcome

Location: Padilla Bay (classroom)

Speakers:

- Welcome to Padilla Bay – Erin Merklein and Jude Apple, Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR)
- Salish Sea Stewards Logistics and Brief History - Erin Merklein, Padilla Bay NERR and members of the Salish Sea Stewards Advisory Committee
- Eelgrass and Estuaries- Sylvia Yang, Padilla Bay NERR
- Ecosystem Services - Jude Apple, Padilla Bay NERR
- Cultural Resources and the Cultural Value of the Salish Sea - Todd Woodard, Samish Indian Nation

Training 2– February 17, 2026

Time: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Theme: Tribal Fishing Rights

Location: Padilla Bay (classroom)

Speakers:

- Understanding Tribal Treaty Rights in Western Washington - Cecilia Gobin, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
- Q&A with Swinomish Tribal Fisherman- Joe Williams, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
- Swinomish Shellfish Research- Julie Barber, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

Training 3– February 24, 2026

Time: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Theme: Salmon

Location: Padilla Bay (classroom)

- Volgistics Introduction- Chandler Colahan, Padilla Bay Staff
- Simply Salmon- Wayne Watne, Herrera Environmental Consulting
- Salmon Habitat Restoration Efforts and How You Can Help- Lucy Degrace, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
- Estuary Restoration is Working, But There is More To Do - Mike LeMoine, Skagit River System Cooperative

Training 4– March 3, 2026

Time: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Theme: Forage Fish

Location: Padilla Bay (classroom)

Speakers:

- Forage Fish of the Salish Sea – Phill Dionne, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
- A Local Approach to Marine Conservation: NW Straits Commission and Marine Resources Committees- Lucas Hart, Northwest Straits Commission
- Native Oyster Restoration- Paul Dinnel, Skagit MRC
- Forage Fish in the Field – Pete Haase, Skagit MRC and Catherine Houck

Training 5– March 10, 2026

Time: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Theme: Kelp and Plankton

Location: Padilla Bay (classroom)

- Kelp of the Salish Sea – Jessi Florendo, Puget Sound Restoration Fund
- Kelp Monitoring – Jeff Whitty, Northwest Straits Commission
- Training Check In/ Reflection- Erin Merklein
- Skagit Bull Kelp Kayak Team – Lynne Wenberg, Skagit MRC
- Plankton of the Salish Sea – Chandler Colahan, Padilla Bay NERR

Training 6– March 17, 2026

Time: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Theme: Birds and Mammals

Location: Padilla Bay (classroom)

Speakers:

- Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST)- Florence Sullivan, COASST / University of Washington
- Ocean Acidification- Brooke Love, Western Washington University
- Bird Surveys at Padilla Bay – Angelica Lucchetto, Padilla Bay NERR
- Local Marine Mammals- Cindy Hansen, Orca Network

Training 7– March 24, 2026

Time: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Theme: Intertidal

Location: Washington Park, Anacortes and Rosario Head

Speakers:

- Beach Dynamics and Area Geology - Scott Petersen, Geologist
- Harbor Porpoise and Harbor Seal Research in the Salish Sea - Cindy Elliser, Pacific Mammal Research
- Beach Naturalist Program- Joy Kacroroski, Deception Pass State Park
- Tide Pool Exploration at Deception Pass State Park– Padilla Bay Staff, Deception Pass State Park Staff, Salish Sea Stewards Alumni

Training 8– March 31, 2026

Time: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Theme: Water Quality

Location: Padilla Bay (classroom)

Speakers:

- Water Quality and Water Pollution - Karen DuBose, Skagit County
- DNR Marine Debris Removal Program and MyCoast App– Andrew Hacker, Washington WA Department of Natural Resources
- Anacortes Stormwater Management Project - Tim Gohrke, Friends of Skagit Beaches
- Stream Team- Cindy Pierce, Skagit Conservation District
- Beach Program 101 – Heather Gibbs, Washington Department of Ecology

Training 9– April 7, 2026

Time: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Theme: Restoration and Monitoring

Location: Padilla Bay (classroom)

Speakers:

- Nearshore Restoration and Monitoring - Lisa Kaufman and Jason Morgan, Northwest Straits Foundation
- Derelict Fishing Gear – Jason Morgan, NW Straits Foundation
- European Green Crab- Angelica Lucchetto, Padilla Bay NERR and Lisa Watkin, Sea Grant

Training 10– April 14, 2026

Time: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Theme: Outreach and Beyond!

Location: Padilla Bay (classroom)

- Volunteer plan/ Volgistics- Erin Merklein and Chandler Colahan, Padilla Bay NERR
- Volunteering at Padilla Bay's Aquarium and Touch Tank – Erin Merklein, Padilla Bay NERR
- One Year as a Salish Sea Stewards- Salish Sea Steward Alumni
- Congratulations from the Salish Sea Stewards Advisory Committee - Salish Sea Stewards Advisory Committee
- Certificates and Celebrate- Salish Sea Stewards Advisory Committee