

Fidalgo Bay Day 2025



Project Reporting Period: October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

SEANWS-2023-SkCoPW-00003

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1. Abstract

Fidalgo Bay Day is the Skagit Marine Resources Committee's (MRC) signature educational event that has taken place each year since 2004. It is designed to bring the community together to learn, celebrate, connect with and protect the local marine environment. It serves as a platform for local non-profits, government agencies, and conservation-minded businesses to educate, inspire, and empower community members to become stewards of their environment. The event places special emphasis on engaging children and adults through interactive environmental educational activities.

This year's Fidalgo Bay Day event took place on Saturday, September 13, 2025, at the Samish Indian Nation's Fidalgo Bay Resort in Anacortes. The event kicked off at 11:00am with a warm welcome from MRC Member and City of Anacortes Council Member Carolyn Moulton and Coast Salish elder Rosie Cayou James. Highlights included a beach seining demonstration by Samish Indian Nation's Natural Resources staff and volunteers, Shannon Point Marine Center's touch tank, Deception Pass State Park's giant gray whale skull, Corra the Heavy Metal Selkie, educational booths and passport stations, kids' craft activities, complimentary seafood samples, free popcorn and lemonade, and traditional no-host Coast Salish food.

Even though Fidalgo Bay Day is just a small one-day event, it takes a lot of planning, coordination and volunteer support. A Fidalgo Bay Day Planning Committee was formed in January consisting of the Skagit MRC Coordinator and two Skagit County Natural Resources Division staff members. Although no MRC members joined the Planning Committee this year, six MRC members participated in lead roles at the event. The main tasks of the Planning Committee included setting the event the date, reserving the facility, volunteer recruitment, coordinating outreach booths, contacting key players, creating and posting event promotional materials, advertising, and purchasing supplies, etc. Jenn Dumas, a student from the Skagit Valley College Environmental Conservation program, volunteered to take the lead as the Event Coordinator to fulfill one of her school requirements starting in late June. Jenn was responsible for the overall event logistics, coordination, and execution and worked in collaboration with the Planning Committee. Jenn took the lead in recruiting and coordinating volunteers for event setup, cleanup, parking, Zero Waste, kids craft tables, face painting, chowder servers, shellfish BBQ, Welcome Table, popcorn and refreshments, photographers, street banner installation/tear down, beach seining demonstration with Samish Indian Nation staff, attendance counters and interviewers, and volunteer relief. Jenn also took the lead in inviting local businesses to participate and contribute.

The 2025 Fidalgo Bay Day event was a clear success! Though the open layout of the venue makes exact counts difficult, peak attendance reached nearly **400** individuals at 1:00 p.m., with most attendees staying for two to three hours. The event was supported by **46** volunteers (including the Event Coordinator), **33** interactive educational booths, **28** Discovery Passport stations, and **106** Discovery Passport booklets completed. **20** generous businesses, organizations, and individuals contributed complimentary seafood samples, refreshments, door prizes, and other miscellaneous supplies. These numbers reflect strong community investment and enthusiasm for the event's mission. We received a lot of positive feedback from volunteers, outreach booths, and event goers. An online

questionnaire was created and sent to participating organizations two weeks after the event for follow-up feedback. Results will be attached to this report later when they become available.

Fidalgo Bay Day continues to be a beloved community event, fostering connections between the public, Coast Salish peoples, local conservation organizations, government agencies, and businesses while deepening understanding of the marine environment. At the same time, opportunities remain for growth. Participation currently reflects a limited demographic. The Event Coordinator recommends expanding outreach to rural communities, minority populations, and those less familiar with environmental issues would broaden impact. Additionally, the current venue, though scenic and provided at no cost, poses logistical challenges. Parking was at full capacity by midday, access required personal transportation, and the space became congested at times. For the event to grow sustainably, the Event Coordinator recommends the Skagit MRC consider other venue options that could better accommodate accessibility, transportation, and crowd flow.

2. Project Goals

The goal of this annual educational event is to increase public awareness of the marine environment and the creatures that live there, foster stewardship, nurture partnerships, and promote awareness about the important work of the Skagit MRC and other conservation organizations.

The event provides a platform for local government agencies, conservation organizations, and like-minded businesses to connect and build partnerships and educate the public through meaningful, hands-on experiences. Attendees explore how our environment is impacted, discover how they can contribute to solutions, and gain awareness of best practices for stewardship.

Fidalgo Bay Day also plays a vital role in inspiring the next generation. The youth were encouraged to learn about their local environment and see themselves as future stewards of our waterways. Education, accessible to all ages, was the unifying theme of the day, and we believe this objective was successfully achieved.

Beyond education, the event showcased the power of community. Volunteers dedicated many hours, local organizations created welcoming and engaging spaces, and businesses shared food that sustained and was greatly appreciated by attendees. Altogether, the day embodied community building, all centered on the shared goal of conserving and celebrating the marine environment.

3. Project Engagement

3.1. Partners/Organizations

Sponsors/Contributors

1. Adrift Restaurant- provided complimentary chowder (5 gallons) and a server for the event
2. Anacortes Oil and Vinegar Tasting Bar- provided a \$25 gift card as a door prize for volunteers

3. Anthony's Restaurant- provided eight \$25 gift certificates as door prizes for volunteers
4. Friends of the Salish Sea- sponsored the 28 Discovery Passport Stations and prizes
5. Gere-a-Deli- provided complementary chowder (5 gallons) served by Northwest Straits Foundation staff
6. Island Café- provided complimentary chowder (5 gallons) served by Northwest Straits Foundation staff
7. Les Eelkema- Guemes Island Artist provided a piece of art as a door prize for volunteers
8. Northwest Straits Foundation - provided staff to serve the Gere-A-Deli and Island Café chowders.
9. Rosie's Salish Foods- traditional Coast Salish no-host salmon BBQ lunch
10. Samish Indian Nation- free use of the Fidalgo Bay Resort conference center and staffed the beach seining demonstration
11. Saul Vest- a Salish Sea Stewards volunteer, provided a portable microphone for the opening welcome
12. Skagit County Health Department- provided 2 thermometers for chowders
13. Skagit Food Coop- provided 20 free brownies (cut into 4ths), for volunteers and presenters
14. Skagit Gleaners- provided a plethora of fruit for volunteers and presenters
15. Skagit Marine Resources Committee- primary event planners/sponsors. MRC grant funding paid for event advertising/banners, compostable food supplies and permits, grill rental, kids craft supplies, refreshments for volunteers, misc. supplies, etc.
16. Skagit Soils- accepted our compost from the event free of charge (a small truck bed load)
17. Taylor Shellfish- provided complimentary shellfish – prepared, grilled, and served by volunteers
18. The Salish Sea School- provided the popcorn machine- complimentary popcorn served by volunteers
19. The Wishing Rock- provided a \$25 gift card as a door prize for volunteers
20. Watermark Book Company- provided a screen-printed bag, full of books as a door prize for volunteers

Outreach Booths

1. City of Anacortes - Storm Water
2. City of Anacortes - Wastewater Treatment Plant
3. City of Anacortes -Water System
4. Corra the Heavy Metal Selkie, Mutiny Mermaid Pod
5. Deception Pass State Park- Gant gray whale skull on a trailer
6. Eco-Restore

7. Friends of Salish Sea - Forage Fish Surveys/Eggs under a microscope
8. Friends of the Salish Sea - Biodiversity Project
9. Friends of the Salish Sea – Discovery Passport and Coloring Station
10. Friends of the Salish Sea - Stormwater
11. Friends of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands
12. NW Straits Commission
13. NW Straits Foundation
14. Orca Network
15. Pacific Mammal Research (PacMam)
16. Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
17. RE-Sources
18. Samish Nation- DNR- Beach Seining Demonstration
19. Shannon Point Marine Center - Touch Tank
20. Skagit Conservation District
21. Skagit County - Health Dept.
22. Skagit County - Natural Resources
23. Skagit County - Noxious Weeds
24. Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
25. Skagit Land Trust
26. Skagit Marine Resources Committee
27. Swinomish Shore Friendly Program
28. The Salish Sea School
29. The Whale Museum
30. Transition Fidalgo
31. WA Department of Ecology
32. Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
33. Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

3.2. Participants

It takes many volunteers to make Fidalgo Bay Day possible, and every contribution, big or small, was deeply valued. Some volunteers supported in multiple areas, while others focused on just one role. Below is a list of the volunteer “sections” organized by the Event Coordinator, along with the number of people who helped in each. As a volunteer the Event Coordinator was included in these totals.

- Garnering support from local businesses (e.g. chowders, shellfish samples, door prizes, refreshments, composting, etc. - **2**
- Hanging of Sign on R Ave. in Anacortes- **7**
- Posting 165 fliers- **1**
- Set-up Friday, includes getting BBQ Rental- **10**
- Set-up Saturday Morning, including picking up chowders- **10**
- Event day activities, including Welcome Table, beach seine, touch tank, passport station, shellfish BBQ, craft tables, refreshments/door prize tables, popcorn servers, chowder servers, parking crew, - **43**
- Zero Waste - compost monitoring and disposal- **2**
- Tear Down, including returning chowder, popcorn machine, and BBQ, and taking down sign on R Ave.- **12**

Total Unique Volunteers= 46

Total Volunteer Hours= 450

3.3. Named Community(ies) Involved

The Fidalgo Bay Day event was open to all and was widely promoted across Skagit County, though the event location likely drew a higher concentration of Anacortes residents. The event was promoted through online platforms, newspaper articles, paid advertisement in the Skagit Kid Insider, and flyers. Flyers were posted at local businesses and public buildings in Anacortes, La Conner, Burlington, Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley, and Alger/Bow. To increase accessibility, flyers were also translated into Spanish and distributed in primarily Spanish-speaking communities. In addition, a large event banner was placed on R Avenue in Anacortes.

Hosting the event at the Samish Indian Nation’s Fidalgo Bay Resort also had its benefits in that their rented RV spaces and cabins were filled for the weekend and several campers came to the event. Some campers also booked their stay in advance, specifically to attend the Fidalgo Bay Day event.

Fidalgo Bay Day is designed with children in mind, particularly through the popular Discovery Passport activity with prizes, interactive displays, and craft tables. At the same time, the event also attracted retirees and a range of other visitors, many of whom came particularly for the food offerings: chowder, barbecued shellfish, and Rosie’s traditional Coast Salish Food.

While efforts were made to broaden outreach with Spanish-language flyers, this demographic was not strongly represented at the event. A continued challenge is the location itself: tucked away on the bay, it is only accessible by car, and the lack of public transportation makes attendance difficult for those without vehicles.

4. Project Methods/Actions

This was an educational outreach project, and many tools and processes were utilized to ensure a smooth event that fulfilled its' goals:

Event Planning

- The Skagit MRC Coordinator and two Skagit County Natural Resources Division staff members formed the Fidalgo Bay Day Planning Committee in January.
- Jenn Dumas from the Skagit Valley College Environmental Conservation program was brought on in late June as a volunteer Event Coordinator.
- The event date was set based on tides for beach seining, the availability of the key players for the beach seining and touch tank activities, the availability of the venue, and potential conflicts with other known planned events.
- Google Docs was used to share and update event documents with the Planning Committee and Event Coordinator.
- A Fidalgo Bay Day email address was created specifically to plan and coordinate the event, so no one's personal email address was used and can be utilized moving forward.
- Monthly meetings were held with the Fidalgo Bay Day Planning Committee and Event Coordinator for brainstorming, task assignments, and status updates.

Marketing

- Event flyers were created and translated into Spanish and were posted in public libraries and businesses throughout Skagit County. Event flyers included a QR code with a link to the Fidalgo Bay Day event page on the Skagit MRC website.
- A press release and digital flyers were sent to media outlets and posted to online event calendars.
- A paid advertisement placed in the Skagit Kid Insider.
- Banner promoting Fidalgo Bay Day was hung on R Avenue in Anacortes.

Volunteer Recruitment and Coordination

- Save the Date cards were created and sent to previous volunteers to gauge interest along with an online registration form with specific tasks they could sign up for.
- A personal email was sent to all past volunteers asking for their help.

- Event Coordinator volunteered at a Stream Team event and Samish Indian Nation event and brought sign-up sheets to procure volunteers.
- A wide call for volunteers was posted in the Salish Sea Stewards electronic news bulletin “The WAVE” along with a link to register online. Volunteers were also recruited during the 2025 Salish Sea Stewards training sessions.
- Coordination of specific task assignments took place individually with each volunteer, resulting in 1-3 emails of communication per volunteer.
- Three weeks before the event an email was sent to each volunteer describing their duties, when they were expected to perform duties, and instructions for where to park, etc. This allowed folks to respond and cancel or change their duties if needed.
- Volunteers were recruited and coordinated to hang the event banner on R Avenue two weeks prior to the event.
- Volunteers were offered light refreshments while volunteering at the Fidalgo Bay Resort facility. This was lemonade, coffee, cucumber water, fresh fruit, cookies, chips, muffins, brownies, etc. This was greatly appreciated and made volunteers feel valued, cared for and likely to volunteer again.
- All volunteers, except the Event Coordinator, were given 1 ticket per hour worked for raffle prizes donated by local businesses. Upon check-in at the Welcome Table, the volunteers were given an envelope with a handwritten Thank You note from the Event Coordinator. There were 12 raffle prizes in total, and volunteers could choose where to apply their tickets. Local businesses were excited to promote their business and take part in providing the prizes and refreshments for volunteers. This was fun for the volunteers and a nice reward for their hard work. The hope is to encourage volunteerism for future years. Rosie with Rosie’s Salish Foods also wanted to thank volunteers and offered a discounted rate on food, a ticket was attached to the volunteer’s envelope for that purpose.
- Volunteers were all sent an email thanking them for their time and asking for feedback. Volunteers who contributed many volunteer hours were sent a handwritten thank you.

Outreach Booth Coordination

- Save the Date cards were created and sent to previous outreach-booth participants to gauge interest along with an online registration form.
- Emails were sent to past participants and asked to fill out the online registration form and booth needs for the event; inside/outside, electricity/no electricity, etc.
- 3 weeks prior to the event an email was sent to let booths know the details of the day, where to park, when to set up, etc.
- 2 weeks before the event a map of the layout was sent to let folks know last minute details and where their booth would be located.

- Organizations had the option of setting up their outreach booth displays inside the facility one day before the event and were provided with tables and chairs. Organizations with outdoor outreach booths only had the option to set up on the day of the event and were required to bring their own tables, chairs, and canopies.
- Handwritten thank you cards were sent to all participating organizations.
- A survey was sent for feedback after the event.

Chowder Tasting and Food Permits

- A flyer was created by the Northwest Straits Foundation to invite restaurants in Anacortes to participate in the chowder tastings. The flyer highlighted what the event was all about, the benefits of participating, what would be required and what we would provide.
- The Northwest Straits Foundation reached out to restaurants via email with the flyer to gauge interest in participating but did not get a response. The Event Coordinator followed up with restaurants with several in-person meetings.
- 2 of the 3 businesses that signed up to participate could not provide an employee to serve chowder, so 2 volunteers were recruited to serve chowders which also required them to get their WA State Food Handler's Permit. We were able to set up a group payment option to pay for the food handler cards online once they completed the training and passed the test.
- An Umbrella Food Permit was obtained from the County Health Department one month before the event to avoid any potential late fees. The umbrella permit covered all food served at the event. The participating vendors were each required to fill out and sign individual permit applications filed under the Umbrella Permit. The Event Coordinator provided assistance in filling out the applications. Those individual permits were for: the BBQ shellfish provided by Taylor Shellfish, Rosie's Salish Foods, Adrift, Gere-a-Deli, and Island Cafe.
- Gere-a-Deli and Island Café required chowders to be picked by volunteers on the day of the event. This also included warming vessels and utensils. These were returned to businesses after the event by volunteers.
- The Skagit County Health Department let us borrow two thermometers for those chowders served by volunteers, to ensure we would be able to meet Health Department requirements.

During Event Metrics

- Event Coordinator and one other volunteer counted attendance 3x throughout the day. They also observed how long participants stayed. This is an inexact science due to the open layout of the venue. The pair started together inside and worked their way out of the building and around.

- Some outreach booths used a hand-held counter to count the number of people they spoke to.

Zero Waste

- Contacted Skagit Soils to ensure they would take compostable waste from event at no charge.
- Plates, cups, cutlery, and other compostable items were approved by Skagit Soils before purchasing.
- All food booths were given compostable ware to strive for zero waste.
- Shellfish had to be separated for composting per Skagit Soils request.
- At the venue there were four receptacles for waste with signage and instructions for proper disposal: Trash, Recycling, Compost, Shellfish.
- Volunteers sorted through all trash receptacles to ensure waste was going in the proper disposal bin.
- Compost was hauled offsite to Skagit Soils. Trash and recycling were disposed of properly on-site.
- Because the event ended at 3 pm and Skagit Soil closed at 4 pm, compost was held in the volunteer's vehicle overnight and brought to Skagit Soils the next day.
- Due to the wet nature of the compost, it was collected in plastic bags. At the compost facility, compost was dumped directly from plastic bags into specific locations per facilities request (shellfish goes with concrete) and (compostable ware went with yard waste). No need for paper bags if done this way. Compost was picked through at the facility to remove any trash that didn't get removed at the event.

5. Results

During this reporting period, Fidalgo Bay Day successfully engaged the Skagit Valley community in celebrating and learning about the local marine environment. The event brought together 33 conservation organizations, 46 volunteers, and 13 businesses, creating a meaningful platform for education and community connection. Attendance peaked at nearly 400 participants, with over 100 completing passport activities that fostered hands-on learning. Overall, the project strengthened community partnerships, promoted environmental stewardship, and highlighted the continued value of this annual event.

5.1. Outcomes

Outcome Goal:

- Renewed public awareness and stewardship of the marine environment and creatures that live there.

- Renewed public awareness was achieved and measured by the 106 Discovery Passport booklets completed by attendees which involved engaging with 28 interactive educational passport stations and answering conservation questions
- It is difficult to determine if the goal of increasing stewardship of the marine environment was achieved, but we hope they will put into practice some of the things they learned at the event.
- Increased awareness about the Skagit MRC in the local community.
 - As the primary sponsor of the Fidalgo Bay Day event, there was an increased awareness about the Skagit MRC. The event flyers included a QR code to the MRC website, the MRC was also included in the press release advertisements, social media and newspaper articles. The large interactive MRC outreach booth was present at the event and was a Discover Passport Station. The Skagit MRC logo is on the Welcome Table banner at the entrance of the event. The Welcome remarks by Carolyn Moulton also mentioned the MRC as the event sponsor.
- Strengthened partnerships and coordination within the local marine conservation community and the Samish Indian Nation
 - Strengthened partnerships were achieved by providing an energizing venue for the many groups to come together and learn what the others are working on and opportunities for collaboration in working toward the common goal of conservation, restoration, and community outreach and education.

5.2. Outputs

- 165 fliers posted throughout Skagit County
- Event attendance estimated to be around 400 attendees. Attendee counts were as follows: 11:00 am - 216 people, 12:30 pm - 389 people, 2:00 pm – 297, attendees stayed approximately 2-3 hours
- All parking spaces FULL by mid-event
- 2 outreach booths tracked the number of people they talked to at their booths: values of 186 & 110 were counted
- 33 outreach booths. 28 of them were Discovery Passport stations
- 167 passport booklets given out
- 106 passports completed
- 20 sponsors and other contributors
- 46 volunteers, including the Event Coordinator, contributed a total of 450 volunteer hours including the Event Coordinator's time) 200 of those hours were contributed by the Event Coordinator alone

- 10 full bags of compost kept out of the trash

6. Lessons Learned

- Meeting with volunteers face to face and personal phone calls seemed to be the most effective method for recruiting volunteers.
- An Event Coordinator, an Event Planning Committee, and lots of volunteers are essential in successfully executing this event. It would be beneficial to have volunteers on the Event Planning Committee, not just county staff.
- Refreshments and complimentary samples of chowder and shellfish and no-host Coast Salish food options are important and are expected at this event.
- Complimentary samples of chowder and shellfish and other contributions from local businesses for this event can only happen if a volunteer or a non-profit takes the lead.
- Meeting with businesses face to face is more effective than emailing or calling. It also requires multiple visits to speak to the right people before signing up to participate.
- The QR Code on the Shannon Point Marine Center's touch tanks to listen to the pronunciation of the Lushootseed language for the creatures in the tanks did not work because there was no internet access under the overhang.
- It is best to do the opening welcome outside where there is more room to gather. A portable microphone and amplifier are needed if the opening welcome is done outside. The facility's PA system works great for inside announcements, but it is hard to hear outside of the facility.
- Good idea to have more than one event photographer to capture different moments and perspectives.
- Need to make sure photographers are aware to ask for parents' permission to take photos of children for reports, event promo, website, social media. The event opening remarks during the event kickoff included a statement about photographs and requested attendees let the photographer know if they did not want their photo taken. The photo permission statement was also posted all over the event.
- Paper yard waste bags do not work well for wet compost and are not needed at Skagit Soils if compost is dumped out of the plastic bags at the facility.
- It is difficult to get an accurate count of attendees.

- The event ends at 3pm, but Skagit Soils closes at 4pm. Not much time to get the compost to the facility before they close.
- The Friends of Salish Sea's Discovery Passport Stations and prizes are an important tool for engaging the attendees at the outreach booths.

7. Next Steps

- Skagit MRC does not currently have a Project Lead or staffing capacity to take this project on in 2026.
- Will be reaching out to other organizations and volunteers to gauge interest in taking the lead to make this event happen in 2026.

Images

Hoisting the Event Banner on R Avenue, Anacortes

Photos by: Pete Haase



Event Opening Welcome



Fidalgo Bay Day Welcome Table

In loving memory of Michael Jacobs, an amazing volunteer who lived life to the fullest and made everyone smile



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson

Michael Jacobs (left) and Judy Jacobs (right)



Outdoor Outreach Booths, Discovery Passport Stations and Activities

Friends of the Salish Sea – Discovery Passport Station Headquarters



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Discovery Passport Participants



Parking Crew



Corra The Heavy Metal Selkie



Shannon Point Marine Center's Touch Tank

Photos by: Doug Sowdon



Below Photos by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Lushootseed language for creatures in the tanks with QR code to listen to the pronunciation

Deception Pass State Park's Gray Whale Skull



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Beach Seining Demonstration with Samish Indian Nation Staff & Volunteers



Photo by: Doug Sowdon



Photo by: Tracy Alker



Photo by: Tracy Alker



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Northwest Straits Commission- European Green Crab Outreach



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Northwest Straits Foundation



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Swinomish Indian Tribal Community- Shore Friendly



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Skagit County Clean Water Program



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Indoor Outreach Booths and Discovery Passport Stations

Skagit MRC's Interactive Kelp Forest Ecosystem Highlighting Pinto Abalone Restoration



Photo by: Tracy Alker



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Padilla Bay NERR



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson

Skagit Land Trust



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson

Forage Fish Outreach



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Orca Network's Inflatable Whale



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Skagit County Noxious Weeds



Photo by: Tracy Alker

RE-Sources



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Pacific Mammal Research



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

WA Dept. of Ecology



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Rosie's Salish Foods



Photo by: Doug Sowdon



Photo by: Doug Sowdon



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Taylor Shellfish - Complimentary Oysters and Clams



Photo by: Doug Sowdon



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Complimentary Chowders: Adrift, Gere-a-Deli, & Island Cafe



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Complimentary Popcorn



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Kids Craft Tables



Photo by: Tracy Alker



Photo by: Tracy Alker

The Salish Sea School Face Painting & Outreach Booth



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson

Appendices

Fidalgo Bay Day Save-the-Date Card

Fidalgo Bay Day Flyer

Fidalgo Bay Day Flyer in Spanish

Event Agenda

Discovery Passport Booklet

The Northwest Straits Foundation's Chowder Sponsorship Invite

Anacortes American Article

Skagit Valley Herald Article- https://www.goskagit.com/local-events/?_evDiscoveryPath=/event%2F3194222-fidalgo-bay-day

1. Abstract

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Beyond education, the event showcased the power of community. Volunteers dedicated many hours, local organizations created welcoming and engaging spaces, and businesses shared food that sustained and was greatly appreciated by attendees. Altogether, the day embodied community building, all centered on the shared goal of conserving and celebrating the marine environment.

3. Project Engagement

3.1. Partners/Organizations

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2. Anacortes Oil and Vinegar Tasting Bar- provided a \$25 gift card as a door prize for volunteers

3. Anthony's Restaurant- provided eight \$25 gift certificates as door prizes for volunteers
4. Friends of the Salish Sea- sponsored the 28 Discovery Passport Stations and prizes
5. Gere-a-Deli- provided complementary chowder (5 gallons) served by Northwest Straits Foundation staff
6. Island Café- provided complimentary chowder (5 gallons) served by Northwest Straits Foundation staff
7. Les Eelkema- Guemes Island Artist provided a piece of art as a door prize for volunteers
8. Northwest Straits Foundation - provided staff to serve the Gere-A-Deli and Island Café chowders.
9. Rosie's Salish Foods- traditional Coast Salish no-host salmon BBQ lunch
10. Samish Indian Nation- free use of the Fidalgo Bay Resort conference center and staffed the beach seining demonstration
11. Saul Vest- a Salish Sea Stewards volunteer, provided a portable microphone for the opening welcome
12. Skagit County Health Department- provided 2 thermometers for chowders
13. Skagit Food Coop- provided 20 free brownies (cut into 4ths), for volunteers and presenters
14. Skagit Gleaners- provided a plethora of fruit for volunteers and presenters
15. Skagit Marine Resources Committee- primary event planners/sponsors. MRC grant funding paid for event advertising/banners, compostable food supplies and permits, grill rental, kids craft supplies, refreshments for volunteers, misc. supplies, etc.
16. Skagit Soils- accepted our compost from the event free of charge (a small truck bed load)
17. Taylor Shellfish- provided complimentary shellfish – prepared, grilled, and served by volunteers
18. The Salish Sea School- provided the popcorn machine- complimentary popcorn served by volunteers
19. The Wishing Rock- provided a \$25 gift card as a door prize for volunteers
20. Watermark Book Company- provided a screen-printed bag, full of books as a door prize for volunteers

Outreach Booths

1. City of Anacortes - Storm Water
2. City of Anacortes - Wastewater Treatment Plant
3. City of Anacortes -Water System
4. Corra the Heavy Metal Selkie, Mutiny Mermaid Pod
5. Deception Pass State Park- Gant gray whale skull on a trailer
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3.2. Participants

It takes many volunteers to make Fidalgo Bay Day possible, and every contribution, big or small, was deeply valued. Some volunteers supported in multiple areas, while others focused on just one role. Below is a list of the volunteer “sections” organized by the Event Coordinator, along with the number of people who helped in each. As a volunteer the Event Coordinator was included in these totals.

- Garnering support from local businesses (e.g. chowders, shellfish samples, door prizes, refreshments, composting, etc. - **2**
- Hanging of Sign on R Ave. in Anacortes- **7**
- Posting 165 fliers- **1**
- Set-up Friday, includes getting BBQ Rental- **10**
- Set-up Saturday Morning, including picking up chowders- **10**
- Event day activities, including Welcome Table, beach seine, touch tank, passport station, shellfish BBQ, craft tables, refreshments/door prize tables, popcorn servers, chowder servers, parking crew, - **43**
- Zero Waste - compost monitoring and disposal- **2**
- Tear Down, including returning chowder, popcorn machine, and BBQ, and taking down sign on R Ave.- **12**

Total Unique Volunteers= 46

Total Volunteer Hours= 450

3.3. Named Community(ies) Involved

The Fidalgo Bay Day event was open to all and was widely promoted across Skagit County, though the event location likely drew a higher concentration of Anacortes residents. The event was promoted through online platforms, newspaper articles, paid advertisement in the Skagit Kid Insider, and flyers. Flyers were posted at local businesses and public buildings in Anacortes, La Conner, Burlington, Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley, and Alger/Bow. To increase accessibility, flyers were also translated into Spanish and distributed in primarily Spanish-speaking communities. In addition, a large event banner was placed on R Avenue in Anacortes.

Hosting the event at the Samish Indian Nation’s Fidalgo Bay Resort also had its benefits in that their rented RV spaces and cabins were filled for the weekend and several campers came to the event. Some campers also booked their stay in advance, specifically to attend the Fidalgo Bay Day event.

Fidalgo Bay Day is designed with children in mind, particularly through the popular Discovery Passport activity with prizes, interactive displays, and craft tables. At the same time, the event also attracted retirees and a range of other visitors, many of whom came particularly for the food offerings: chowder, barbecued shellfish, and Rosie’s traditional Coast Salish Food.

While efforts were made to broaden outreach with Spanish-language flyers, this demographic was not strongly represented at the event. A continued challenge is the location itself: tucked away on the bay, it is only accessible by car, and the lack of public transportation makes attendance difficult for those without vehicles.

4. Project Methods/Actions

This was an educational outreach project, and many tools and processes were utilized to ensure a smooth event that fulfilled its' goals:

Event Planning

- The Skagit MRC Coordinator and two Skagit County Natural Resources Division staff members formed the Fidalgo Bay Day Planning Committee in January.
- Jenn Dumas from the Skagit Valley College Environmental Conservation program was brought on in late June as a volunteer Event Coordinator.
- The event date was set based on tides for beach seining, the availability of the key players for the beach seining and touch tank activities, the availability of the venue, and potential conflicts with other known planned events.
- Google Docs was used to share and update event documents with the Planning Committee and Event Coordinator.
- A Fidalgo Bay Day email address was created specifically to plan and coordinate the event, so no one's personal email address was used and can be utilized moving forward.
- Monthly meetings were held with the Fidalgo Bay Day Planning Committee and Event Coordinator for brainstorming, task assignments, and status updates.

Marketing

- Event flyers were created and translated into Spanish and were posted in public libraries and businesses throughout Skagit County. Event flyers included a QR code with a link to the Fidalgo Bay Day event page on the Skagit MRC website.
- A press release and digital flyers were sent to media outlets and posted to online event calendars.
- A paid advertisement placed in the Skagit Kid Insider.
- Banner promoting Fidalgo Bay Day was hung on R Avenue in Anacortes.

Volunteer Recruitment and Coordination

- Save the Date cards were created and sent to previous volunteers to gauge interest along with an online registration form with specific tasks they could sign up for.
- A personal email was sent to all past volunteers asking for their help.

- Event Coordinator volunteered at a Stream Team event and Samish Indian Nation event and brought sign-up sheets to procure volunteers.
- A wide call for volunteers was posted in the Salish Sea Stewards electronic news bulletin “The WAVE” along with a link to register online. Volunteers were also recruited during the 2025 Salish Sea Stewards training sessions.
- Coordination of specific task assignments took place individually with each volunteer, resulting in 1-3 emails of communication per volunteer.
- Three weeks before the event an email was sent to each volunteer describing their duties, when they were expected to perform duties, and instructions for where to park, etc. This allowed folks to respond and cancel or change their duties if needed.
- Volunteers were recruited and coordinated to hang the event banner on R Avenue two weeks prior to the event.
- Volunteers were offered light refreshments while volunteering at the Fidalgo Bay Resort facility. This was lemonade, coffee, cucumber water, fresh fruit, cookies, chips, muffins, brownies, etc. This was greatly appreciated and made volunteers feel valued, cared for and likely to volunteer again.
- All volunteers, except the Event Coordinator, were given 1 ticket per hour worked for raffle prizes donated by local businesses. Upon check-in at the Welcome Table, the volunteers were given an envelope with a handwritten Thank You note from the Event Coordinator. There were 12 raffle prizes in total, and volunteers could choose where to apply their tickets. Local businesses were excited to promote their business and take part in providing the prizes and refreshments for volunteers. This was fun for the volunteers and a nice reward for their hard work. The hope is to encourage volunteerism for future years. Rosie with Rosie’s Salish Foods also wanted to thank volunteers and offered a discounted rate on food, a ticket was attached to the volunteer’s envelope for that purpose.
- Volunteers were all sent an email thanking them for their time and asking for feedback. Volunteers who contributed many volunteer hours were sent a handwritten thank you.

Outreach Booth Coordination

- Save the Date cards were created and sent to previous outreach-booth participants to gauge interest along with an online registration form.
- Emails were sent to past participants and asked to fill out the online registration form and booth needs for the event; inside/outside, electricity/no electricity, etc.
- 3 weeks prior to the event an email was sent to let booths know the details of the day, where to park, when to set up, etc.
- 2 weeks before the event a map of the layout was sent to let folks know last minute details and where their booth would be located.

- Organizations had the option of setting up their outreach booth displays inside the facility one day before the event and were provided with tables and chairs. Organizations with outdoor outreach booths only had the option to set up on the day of the event and were required to bring their own tables, chairs, and canopies.
- Handwritten thank you cards were sent to all participating organizations.
- A survey was sent for feedback after the event.

Chowder Tasting and Food Permits

- A flyer was created by the Northwest Straits Foundation to invite restaurants in Anacortes to participate in the chowder tastings. The flyer highlighted what the event was all about, the benefits of participating, what would be required and what we would provide.
- The Northwest Straits Foundation reached out to restaurants via email with the flyer to gauge interest in participating but did not get a response. The Event Coordinator followed up with restaurants with several in-person meetings.
- 2 of the 3 businesses that signed up to participate could not provide an employee to serve chowder, so 2 volunteers were recruited to serve chowders which also required them to get their WA State Food Handler's Permit. We were able to set up a group payment option to pay for the food handler cards online once they completed the training and passed the test.
- An Umbrella Food Permit was obtained from the County Health Department one month before the event to avoid any potential late fees. The umbrella permit covered all food served at the event. The participating vendors were each required to fill out and sign individual permit applications filed under the Umbrella Permit. The Event Coordinator provided assistance in filling out the applications. Those individual permits were for: the BBQ shellfish provided by Taylor Shellfish, Rosie's Salish Foods, Adrift, Gere-a-Deli, and Island Cafe.
- Gere-a-Deli and Island Café required chowders to be picked by volunteers on the day of the event. This also included warming vessels and utensils. These were returned to businesses after the event by volunteers.
- The Skagit County Health Department let us borrow two thermometers for those chowders served by volunteers, to ensure we would be able to meet Health Department requirements.

During Event Metrics

- Event Coordinator and one other volunteer counted attendance 3x throughout the day. They also observed how long participants stayed. This is an inexact science due to the open layout of the venue. The pair started together inside and worked their way out of the building and around.

- Some outreach booths used a hand-held counter to count the number of people they spoke to.

Zero Waste

- Contacted Skagit Soils to ensure they would take compostable waste from event at no charge.
- Plates, cups, cutlery, and other compostable items were approved by Skagit Soils before purchasing.
- All food booths were given compostable ware to strive for zero waste.
- Shellfish had to be separated for composting per Skagit Soils request.
- At the venue there were four receptacles for waste with signage and instructions for proper disposal: Trash, Recycling, Compost, Shellfish.
- Volunteers sorted through all trash receptacles to ensure waste was going in the proper disposal bin.
- Compost was hauled offsite to Skagit Soils. Trash and recycling were disposed of properly on-site.
- Because the event ended at 3 pm and Skagit Soil closed at 4 pm, compost was held in the volunteer's vehicle overnight and brought to Skagit Soils the next day.
- Due to the wet nature of the compost, it was collected in plastic bags. At the compost facility, compost was dumped directly from plastic bags into specific locations per facilities request (shellfish goes with concrete) and (compostable ware went with yard waste). No need for paper bags if done this way. Compost was picked through at the facility to remove any trash that didn't get removed at the event.

5. Results

During this reporting period, Fidalgo Bay Day successfully engaged the Skagit Valley community in celebrating and learning about the local marine environment. The event brought together 33 conservation organizations, 46 volunteers, and 13 businesses, creating a meaningful platform for education and community connection. Attendance peaked at nearly 400 participants, with over 100 completing passport activities that fostered hands-on learning. Overall, the project strengthened community partnerships, promoted environmental stewardship, and highlighted the continued value of this annual event.

5.1. Outcomes

Outcome Goal:

- Renewed public awareness and stewardship of the marine environment and creatures that live there.

- Renewed public awareness was achieved and measured by the 106 Discovery Passport booklets completed by attendees which involved engaging with 28 interactive educational passport stations and answering conservation questions
- It is difficult to determine if the goal of increasing stewardship of the marine environment was achieved, but we hope they will put into practice some of the things they learned at the event.
- Increased awareness about the Skagit MRC in the local community.
 - As the primary sponsor of the Fidalgo Bay Day event, there was an increased awareness about the Skagit MRC. The event flyers included a QR code to the MRC website, the MRC was also included in the press release advertisements, social media and newspaper articles. The large interactive MRC outreach booth was present at the event and was a Discover Passport Station. The Skagit MRC logo is on the Welcome Table banner at the entrance of the event. The Welcome remarks by Carolyn Moulton also mentioned the MRC as the event sponsor.
- Strengthened partnerships and coordination within the local marine conservation community and the Samish Indian Nation
 - Strengthened partnerships were achieved by providing an energizing venue for the many groups to come together and learn what the others are working on and opportunities for collaboration in working toward the common goal of conservation, restoration, and community outreach and education.

5.2. Outputs

- 165 fliers posted throughout Skagit County
- Event attendance estimated to be around 400 attendees. Attendee counts were as follows: 11:00 am - 216 people, 12:30 pm - 389 people, 2:00 pm – 297, attendees stayed approximately 2-3 hours
- All parking spaces FULL by mid-event
- 2 outreach booths tracked the number of people they talked to at their booths: values of 186 & 110 were counted
- 33 outreach booths. 28 of them were Discovery Passport stations
- 167 passport booklets given out
- 106 passports completed
- 20 sponsors and other contributors
- 46 volunteers, including the Event Coordinator, contributed a total of 450 volunteer hours including the Event Coordinator's time) 200 of those hours were contributed by the Event Coordinator alone

- 10 full bags of compost kept out of the trash

6. Lessons Learned

- Meeting with volunteers face to face and personal phone calls seemed to be the most effective method for recruiting volunteers.
- An Event Coordinator, an Event Planning Committee, and lots of volunteers are essential in successfully executing this event. It would be beneficial to have volunteers on the Event Planning Committee, not just county staff.
- Refreshments and complimentary samples of chowder and shellfish and no-host Coast Salish food options are important and are expected at this event.
- Complimentary samples of chowder and shellfish and other contributions from local businesses for this event can only happen if a volunteer or a non-profit takes the lead.
- Meeting with businesses face to face is more effective than emailing or calling. It also requires multiple visits to speak to the right people before signing up to participate.
- The QR Code on the Shannon Point Marine Center's touch tanks to listen to the pronunciation of the Lushootseed language for the creatures in the tanks did not work because there was no internet access under the overhang.
- It is best to do the opening welcome outside where there is more room to gather. A portable microphone and amplifier are needed if the opening welcome is done outside. The facility's PA system works great for inside announcements, but it is hard to hear outside of the facility.
- Good idea to have more than one event photographer to capture different moments and perspectives.
- Need to make sure photographers are aware to ask for parents' permission to take photos of children for reports, event promo, website, social media. The event opening remarks during the event kickoff included a statement about photographs and requested attendees let the photographer know if they did not want their photo taken. The photo permission statement was also posted all over the event.
- Paper yard waste bags do not work well for wet compost and are not needed at Skagit Soils if compost is dumped out of the plastic bags at the facility.
- It is difficult to get an accurate count of attendees.

- The event ends at 3pm, but Skagit Soils closes at 4pm. Not much time to get the compost to the facility before they close.
- The Friends of Salish Sea's Discovery Passport Stations and prizes are an important tool for engaging the attendees at the outreach booths.

7. Next Steps

- Skagit MRC does not currently have a Project Lead or staffing capacity to take this project on in 2026.
- Will be reaching out to other organizations and volunteers to gauge interest in taking the lead to make this event happen in 2026.

Images

Hoisting the Event Banner on R Avenue, Anacortes

Photos by: Pete Haase



Event Opening Welcome



Fidalgo Bay Day Welcome Table

In loving memory of Michael Jacobs, an amazing volunteer who lived life to the fullest and made everyone smile



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson

Michael Jacobs (left) and Judy Jacobs (right)



Outdoor Outreach Booths, Discovery Passport Stations and Activities

Friends of the Salish Sea – Discovery Passport Station Headquarters



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Discovery Passport Participants



Parking Crew



Corra The Heavy Metal Selkie



Shannon Point Marine Center's Touch Tank

Photos by: Doug Sowdon



Below Photos by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Lushootseed language for creatures in the tanks with QR code to listen to the pronunciation

Deception Pass State Park's Gray Whale Skull



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Beach Seining Demonstration with Samish Indian Nation Staff & Volunteers



Photo by: Doug Sowdon



Photo by: Tracy Alker



Photo by: Tracy Alker



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Northwest Straits Commission- European Green Crab Outreach



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Northwest Straits Foundation



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Swinomish Indian Tribal Community- Shore Friendly



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Skagit County Clean Water Program



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Indoor Outreach Booths and Discovery Passport Stations

Skagit MRC's Interactive Kelp Forest Ecosystem Highlighting Pinto Abalone Restoration



Photo by: Tracy Alker



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Padilla Bay NERR



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson

Skagit Land Trust



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson

Forage Fish Outreach



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Orca Network's Inflatable Whale



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Skagit County Noxious Weeds



Photo by: Tracy Alker

RE-Sources



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Pacific Mammal Research



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

WA Dept. of Ecology



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Rosie's Salish Foods



Photo by: Doug Sowdon



Photo by: Doug Sowdon



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Taylor Shellfish - Complimentary Oysters and Clams



Photo by: Doug Sowdon



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Complimentary Chowders: Adrift, Gere-a-Deli, & Island Cafe



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Complimentary Popcorn



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Kids Craft Tables



The Salish Sea School Face Painting & Outreach Booth



Appendices

Fidalgo Bay Day Save-the-Date Card

Fidalgo Bay Day Flyer

Fidalgo Bay Day Flyer in Spanish

Event Agenda

Discovery Passport Booklet

The Northwest Straits Foundation's Chowder Sponsorship Invite

Anacortes American Article

Skagit Valley Herald Article- https://www.goskagit.com/local-events/?_evDiscoveryPath=/event%2F3194222-fidalgo-bay-day

1. Abstract

Fidalgo Bay Day is the Skagit Marine Resources Committee's (MRC) signature educational event that has taken place each year since 2004. It is designed to bring the community together to learn, celebrate, connect with and protect the local marine environment. It serves as a platform for local non-profits, government agencies, and conservation-minded businesses to educate, inspire, and empower community members to become stewards of their environment. The event places special emphasis on engaging children and adults through interactive environmental educational activities.

This year's Fidalgo Bay Day event took place on Saturday, September 13, 2025, at the Samish Indian Nation's Fidalgo Bay Resort in Anacortes. The event kicked off at 11:00am with a warm welcome from MRC Member and City of Anacortes Council Member Carolyn Moulton and Coast Salish elder Rosie Cayou James. Highlights included a beach seining demonstration by Samish Indian Nation's Natural Resources staff and volunteers, Shannon Point Marine Center's touch tank, Deception Pass State Park's giant gray whale skull, Corra the Heavy Metal Selkie, educational booths and passport stations, kids' craft activities, complimentary seafood samples, free popcorn and lemonade, and traditional no-host Coast Salish food.

Even though Fidalgo Bay Day is just a small one-day event, it takes a lot of planning, coordination and volunteer support. A Fidalgo Bay Day Planning Committee was formed in January consisting of the Skagit MRC Coordinator and two Skagit County Natural Resources Division staff members. No MRC members participated on the Planning Committee this year, but six MRC members participated in lead roles at the event. The main tasks of the Planning Committee included setting the event the date, reserving the facility, volunteer recruitment, coordinating outreach booths, contacting key players, creating and posting event promotional materials, advertising, and purchasing supplies, etc. Jenn Dumas, a student from the Skagit Valley College Environmental Conservation program, volunteered to take the lead as the Event Coordinator to fulfill one of her school requirements starting in late June. Jenn was responsible for the overall event logistics, coordination, and execution and worked in collaboration with the Planning Committee. Jenn took the lead in recruiting and coordinating volunteers for event setup, cleanup, parking, Zero Waste, kids craft tables, face painting, chowder servers, shellfish BBQ, Welcome Table, popcorn and refreshments, photographers, street banner installation/tear down, beach seining demonstration with Samish Indian Nation staff, attendance counters and interviewers, and volunteer relief. Jenn also took the lead in inviting local businesses to participate and contribute.

The 2025 Fidalgo Bay Day event was a clear success! Though the open layout of the venue makes exact counts difficult, peak attendance reached nearly **400** individuals at 1:00 p.m., with most attendees staying for two to three hours. The event was supported by **46** volunteers (including the Event Coordinator), **33** interactive educational booths, **28** Discovery Passport stations, and **106** Discovery Passport booklets completed. **20** generous businesses, organizations, and individuals contributed complimentary seafood samples, refreshments, door prizes, and other miscellaneous supplies. These numbers reflect strong community investment and enthusiasm for the event's mission. We received a lot of positive feedback from volunteers, outreach booths, and event goers. An online

questionnaire was created and sent to participating organizations two weeks after the event for follow-up feedback. Results will be attached to this report later when they become available.

Fidalgo Bay Day continues to be a beloved community event, fostering connections between the public, Coast Salish peoples, local conservation organizations, government agencies, and businesses while deepening understanding of the marine environment. At the same time, opportunities remain for growth. Participation currently reflects a limited demographic. The Event Coordinator recommends expanding outreach to rural communities, minority populations, and those less familiar with environmental issues would broaden impact. Additionally, the current venue, though scenic and provided at no cost, poses logistical challenges. Parking was at full capacity by midday, access required personal transportation, and the space became congested at times. For the event to grow sustainably, the Event Coordinator recommends the Skagit MRC consider other venue options that could better accommodate accessibility, transportation, and crowd flow.

2. Project Goals

The goal of this annual educational event is to increase public awareness of the marine environment and the creatures that live there, foster stewardship, nurture partnerships, and promote awareness about the important work of the Skagit MRC and other conservation organizations.

The event provides a platform for local government agencies, conservation organizations, and like-minded businesses to connect and build partnerships and educate the public through meaningful, hands-on experiences. Attendees explore how our environment is impacted, discover how they can contribute to solutions, and gain awareness of best practices for stewardship.

Fidalgo Bay Day also plays a vital role in inspiring the next generation. The youth were encouraged to learn about their local environment and see themselves as future stewards of our waterways. Education, accessible to all ages, was the unifying theme of the day, and we believe this objective was successfully achieved.

Beyond education, the event showcased the power of community. Volunteers dedicated many hours, local organizations created welcoming and engaging spaces, and businesses shared food that sustained and was greatly appreciated by attendees. Altogether, the day embodied community building, all centered on the shared goal of conserving and celebrating the marine environment.

3. Project Engagement

3.1. Partners/Organizations

Sponsors/Contributors

1. Adrift Restaurant- provided complimentary chowder (5 gallons) and a server for the event
2. Anacortes Oil and Vinegar Tasting Bar- provided a \$25 gift card as a door prize for volunteers

3. Anthony's Restaurant- provided eight \$25 gift certificates as door prizes for volunteers
4. Friends of the Salish Sea- sponsored the 28 Discovery Passport Stations and prizes
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3. City of Anacortes -Water System
4. Corra the Heavy Metal Selkie, Mutiny Mermaid Pod
5. Deception Pass State Park- Gant gray whale skull on a trailer
6. Eco-Restore

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8. Friends of the Salish Sea - Biodiversity Project
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3.2. Participants

It takes many volunteers to make Fidalgo Bay Day possible, and every contribution, big or small, was deeply valued. Some volunteers supported in multiple areas, while others focused on just one role. Below is a list of the volunteer “sections” organized by the Event Coordinator, along with the number of people who helped in each. As a volunteer the Event Coordinator was included in these totals.

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- Hanging of Sign on R Ave. in Anacortes- **7**
- Posting 165 fliers- **1**
- Set-up Friday, includes getting BBQ Rental- **10**
- Set-up Saturday Morning, including picking up chowders- **10**
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- Tear Down, including returning chowder, popcorn machine, and BBQ, and taking down sign on R Ave.- **12**

Total Unique Volunteers= 46

Total Volunteer Hours= 450

3.3. Named Community(ies) Involved

The Fidalgo Bay Day event was open to all and was widely promoted across Skagit County, though the event location likely drew a higher concentration of Anacortes residents. The event was promoted through online platforms, newspaper articles, paid advertisement in the Skagit Kid Insider, and flyers. Flyers were posted at local businesses and public buildings in Anacortes, La Conner, Burlington, Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley, and Alger/Bow. To increase accessibility, flyers were also translated into Spanish and distributed in primarily Spanish-speaking communities. In addition, a large event banner was placed on R Avenue in Anacortes.

Hosting the event at the Samish Indian Nation’s Fidalgo Bay Resort also had its benefits in that their rented RV spaces and cabins were filled for the weekend and several campers came to the event. Some campers also booked their stay in advance, specifically to attend the Fidalgo Bay Day event.

Fidalgo Bay Day is designed with children in mind, particularly through the popular Discovery Passport activity with prizes, interactive displays, and craft tables. At the same time, the event also attracted retirees and a range of other visitors, many of whom came particularly for the food offerings: chowder, barbecued shellfish, and Rosie’s traditional Coast Salish Food.

While efforts were made to broaden outreach with Spanish-language flyers, this demographic was not strongly represented at the event. A continued challenge is the location itself: tucked away on the bay, it is only accessible by car, and the lack of public transportation makes attendance difficult for those without vehicles.

4. Project Methods/Actions

This was an educational outreach project, and many tools and processes were utilized to ensure a smooth event that fulfilled its' goals:

Event Planning

- The Skagit MRC Coordinator and two Skagit County Natural Resources Division staff members formed the Fidalgo Bay Day Planning Committee in January.
- Jenn Dumas from the Skagit Valley College Environmental Conservation program was brought on in late June as a volunteer Event Coordinator.
- The event date was set based on tides for beach seining, the availability of the key players for the beach seining and touch tank activities, the availability of the venue, and potential conflicts with other known planned events.
- Google Docs was used to share and update event documents with the Planning Committee and Event Coordinator.
- A Fidalgo Bay Day email address was created specifically to plan and coordinate the event, so no one's personal email address was used and can be utilized moving forward.
- Monthly meetings were held with the Fidalgo Bay Day Planning Committee and Event Coordinator for brainstorming, task assignments, and status updates.

Marketing

- Event flyers were created and translated into Spanish and were posted in public libraries and businesses throughout Skagit County. Event flyers included a QR code with a link to the Fidalgo Bay Day event page on the Skagit MRC website.
- A press release and digital flyers were sent to media outlets and posted to online event calendars.
- A paid advertisement placed in the Skagit Kid Insider.
- Banner promoting Fidalgo Bay Day was hung on R Avenue in Anacortes.

Volunteer Recruitment and Coordination

- Save the Date cards were created and sent to previous volunteers to gauge interest along with an online registration form with specific tasks they could sign up for.
- A personal email was sent to all past volunteers asking for their help.

- Event Coordinator volunteered at a Stream Team event and Samish Indian Nation event and brought sign-up sheets to procure volunteers.
- A wide call for volunteers was posted in the Salish Sea Stewards electronic news bulletin “The WAVE” along with a link to register online. Volunteers were also recruited during the 2025 Salish Sea Stewards training sessions.
- Coordination of specific task assignments took place individually with each volunteer, resulting in 1-3 emails of communication per volunteer.
- Three weeks before the event an email was sent to each volunteer describing their duties, when they were expected to perform duties, and instructions for where to park, etc. This allowed folks to respond and cancel or change their duties if needed.
- Volunteers were recruited and coordinated to hang the event banner on R Avenue two weeks prior to the event.
- Volunteers were offered light refreshments while volunteering at the Fidalgo Bay Resort facility. This was lemonade, coffee, cucumber water, fresh fruit, cookies, chips, muffins, brownies, etc. This was greatly appreciated and made volunteers feel valued, cared for and likely to volunteer again.
- All volunteers, except the Event Coordinator, were given 1 ticket per hour worked for raffle prizes donated by local businesses. Upon check-in at the Welcome Table, the volunteers were given an envelope with a handwritten Thank You note from the Event Coordinator. There were 12 raffle prizes in total, and volunteers could choose where to apply their tickets. Local businesses were excited to promote their business and take part in providing the prizes and refreshments for volunteers. This was fun for the volunteers and a nice reward for their hard work. The hope is to encourage volunteerism for future years. Rosie with Rosie’s Salish Foods also wanted to thank volunteers and offered a discounted rate on food, a ticket was attached to the volunteer’s envelope for that purpose.
- Volunteers were all sent an email thanking them for their time and asking for feedback. Volunteers who contributed many volunteer hours were sent a handwritten thank you.

Outreach Booth Coordination

- Save the Date cards were created and sent to previous outreach-booth participants to gauge interest along with an online registration form.
- Emails were sent to past participants and asked to fill out the online registration form and booth needs for the event; inside/outside, electricity/no electricity, etc.
- 3 weeks prior to the event an email was sent to let booths know the details of the day, where to park, when to set up, etc.
- 2 weeks before the event a map of the layout was sent to let folks know last minute details and where their booth would be located.

- Organizations had the option of setting up their outreach booth displays inside the facility one day before the event and were provided with tables and chairs. Organizations with outdoor outreach booths only had the option to set up on the day of the event and were required to bring their own tables, chairs, and canopies.
- Handwritten thank you cards were sent to all participating organizations.
- A survey was sent for feedback after the event.

Chowder Tasting and Food Permits

- A flyer was created by the Northwest Straits Foundation to invite restaurants in Anacortes to participate in the chowder tastings. The flyer highlighted what the event was all about, the benefits of participating, what would be required and what we would provide.
- The Northwest Straits Foundation reached out to restaurants via email with the flyer to gauge interest in participating but did not get a response. The Event Coordinator followed up with restaurants with several in-person meetings.
- 2 of the 3 businesses that signed up to participate could not provide an employee to serve chowder, so 2 volunteers were recruited to serve chowders which also required them to get their WA State Food Handler's Permit. We were able to set up a group payment option to pay for the food handler cards online once they completed the training and passed the test.
- An Umbrella Food Permit was obtained from the County Health Department one month before the event to avoid any potential late fees. The umbrella permit covered all food served at the event. The participating vendors were each required to fill out and sign individual permit applications filed under the Umbrella Permit. The Event Coordinator provided assistance in filling out the applications. Those individual permits were for: the BBQ shellfish provided by Taylor Shellfish, Rosie's Salish Foods, Adrift, Gere-a-Deli, and Island Cafe.
- Gere-a-Deli and Island Café required chowders to be picked by volunteers on the day of the event. This also included warming vessels and utensils. These were returned to businesses after the event by volunteers.
- The Skagit County Health Department let us borrow two thermometers for those chowders served by volunteers, to ensure we would be able to meet Health Department requirements.

During Event Metrics

- Event Coordinator and one other volunteer counted attendance 3x throughout the day. They also observed how long participants stayed. This is an inexact science due to the open layout of the venue. The pair started together inside and worked their way out of the building and around.

- Some outreach booths used a hand-held counter to count the number of people they spoke to.

Zero Waste

- Contacted Skagit Soils to ensure they would take compostable waste from event at no charge.
- Plates, cups, cutlery, and other compostable items were approved by Skagit Soils before purchasing.
- All food booths were given compostable ware to strive for zero waste.
- Shellfish had to be separated for composting per Skagit Soils request.
- At the venue there were four receptacles for waste with signage and instructions for proper disposal: Trash, Recycling, Compost, Shellfish.
- Volunteers sorted through all trash receptacles to ensure waste was going in the proper disposal bin.
- Compost was hauled offsite to Skagit Soils. Trash and recycling were disposed of properly on-site.
- Because the event ended at 3 pm and Skagit Soil closed at 4 pm, compost was held in the volunteer's vehicle overnight and brought to Skagit Soils the next day.
- Due to the wet nature of the compost, it was collected in plastic bags. At the compost facility, compost was dumped directly from plastic bags into specific locations per facilities request (shellfish goes with concrete) and (compostable ware went with yard waste). No need for paper bags if done this way. Compost was picked through at the facility to remove any trash that didn't get removed at the event.

5. Results

During this reporting period, Fidalgo Bay Day successfully engaged the Skagit Valley community in celebrating and learning about the local marine environment. The event brought together 33 conservation organizations, 46 volunteers, and 13 businesses, creating a meaningful platform for education and community connection. Attendance peaked at nearly 400 participants, with over 100 completing passport activities that fostered hands-on learning. Overall, the project strengthened community partnerships, promoted environmental stewardship, and highlighted the continued value of this annual event.

5.1. Outcomes

Outcome Goal:

- Renewed public awareness and stewardship of the marine environment and creatures that live there.

- Renewed public awareness was achieved and measured by the 106 Discovery Passport booklets completed by attendees which involved engaging with 28 interactive educational passport stations and answering conservation questions
- It is difficult to determine if the goal of increasing stewardship of the marine environment was achieved, but we hope they will put into practice some of the things they learned at the event.
- Increased awareness about the Skagit MRC in the local community.
 - As the primary sponsor of the Fidalgo Bay Day event, there was an increased awareness about the Skagit MRC. The event flyers included a QR code to the MRC website, the MRC was also included in the press release advertisements, social media and newspaper articles. The large interactive MRC outreach booth was present at the event and was a Discover Passport Station. The Skagit MRC logo is on the Welcome Table banner at the entrance of the event. The Welcome remarks by Carolyn Moulton also mentioned the MRC as the event sponsor.
- Strengthened partnerships and coordination within the local marine conservation community and the Samish Indian Nation
 - Strengthened partnerships were achieved by providing an energizing venue for the many groups to come together and learn what the others are working on and opportunities for collaboration in working toward the common goal of conservation, restoration, and community outreach and education.

5.2. Outputs

- 165 fliers posted throughout Skagit County
- Event attendance estimated to be around 400 attendees. Attendee counts were as follows: 11:00 am - 216 people, 12:30 pm - 389 people, 2:00 pm – 297, attendees stayed approximately 2-3 hours
- All parking spaces FULL by mid-event
- 2 outreach booths tracked the number of people they talked to at their booths: values of 186 & 110 were counted
- 33 outreach booths. 28 of them were Discovery Passport stations
- 167 passport booklets given out
- 106 passports completed
- 20 sponsors and other contributors
- 46 volunteers, including the Event Coordinator, contributed a total of 450 volunteer hours including the Event Coordinator's time) 200 of those hours were contributed by the Event Coordinator alone

- 10 full bags of compost kept out of the trash

6. Lessons Learned

- Meeting with volunteers face to face and personal phone calls seemed to be the most effective method for recruiting volunteers.
- An Event Coordinator, an Event Planning Committee, and lots of volunteers are essential in successfully executing this event. It would be beneficial to have volunteers on the Event Planning Committee, not just county staff.
- Refreshments and complimentary samples of chowder and shellfish and no-host Coast Salish food options are important and are expected at this event.
- Complimentary samples of chowder and shellfish and other contributions from local businesses for this event can only happen if a volunteer or a non-profit takes the lead.
- Meeting with businesses face to face is more effective than emailing or calling. It also requires multiple visits to speak to the right people before signing up to participate.
- The QR Code on the Shannon Point Marine Center's touch tanks to listen to the pronunciation of the Lushootseed language for the creatures in the tanks did not work because there was no internet access under the overhang.
- It is best to do the opening welcome outside where there is more room to gather. A portable microphone and amplifier are needed if the opening welcome is done outside. The facility's PA system works great for inside announcements, but it is hard to hear outside of the facility.
- Good idea to have more than one event photographer to capture different moments and perspectives.
- Need to make sure photographers are aware to ask for parents' permission to take photos of children for reports, event promo, website, social media. The event opening remarks during the event kickoff included a statement about photographs and requested attendees let the photographer know if they did not want their photo taken. The photo permission statement was also posted all over the event.
- Paper yard waste bags do not work well for wet compost and are not needed at Skagit Soils if compost is dumped out of the plastic bags at the facility.
- It is difficult to get an accurate count of attendees.

- The event ends at 3pm, but Skagit Soils closes at 4pm. Not much time to get the compost to the facility before they close.
- The Friends of Salish Sea's Discovery Passport Stations and prizes are an important tool for engaging the attendees at the outreach booths.

7. Next Steps

- Skagit MRC does not currently have a Project Lead or staffing capacity to take this project on in 2026.
- Will be reaching out to other organizations and volunteers to gauge interest in taking the lead to make this event happen in 2026.

Images

Hoisting the Event Banner on R Avenue, Anacortes

Photos by: Pete Haase



Event Opening Welcome



Event Coordinator Jenn Dumas (Left) Introduces Carolyn Moulton (Right)

Carolyn Moulton (Center) - MRC Member & Anacortes City Council Member opens the event with a welcome and tribal land acknowledgment

Rosie Cayou James - Coast Salish Elder speaks from the heart with inspirational words of wisdom

Fidalgo Bay Day Welcome Table

In loving memory of Michael Jacobs, an amazing volunteer who lived life to the fullest and made everyone smile



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson

Michael Jacobs (left) and Judy Jacobs (right)



Outdoor Outreach Booths, Discovery Passport Stations and Activities

Friends of the Salish Sea – Discovery Passport Station Headquarters



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Discovery Passport Participants



Parking Crew



Corra The Heavy Metal Selkie



Shannon Point Marine Center's Touch Tank

Photos by: Doug Sowdon



Below Photos by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Lushootseed language for creatures in the tanks with QR code to listen to the pronunciation

Deception Pass State Park's Gray Whale Skull



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Beach Seining Demonstration with Samish Indian Nation Staff & Volunteers



Photo by: Doug Sowdon



Photo by: Tracy Alker



Photo by: Tracy Alker



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Northwest Straits Commission- European Green Crab Outreach



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Northwest Straits Foundation



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Swinomish Indian Tribal Community- Shore Friendly



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Skagit County Clean Water Program



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Indoor Outreach Booths and Discovery Passport Stations

Skagit MRC's Interactive Kelp Forest Ecosystem Highlighting Pinto Abalone Restoration



Photo by: Tracy Alker



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Padilla Bay NERR



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson

Skagit Land Trust



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson

Forage Fish Outreach



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Orca Network's Inflatable Whale



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Skagit County Noxious Weeds



Photo by: Tracy Alker

RE-Sources



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Pacific Mammal Research



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

WA Dept. of Ecology



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Rosie's Salish Foods



Photo by: Doug Sowdon



Photo by: Doug Sowdon



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Taylor Shellfish - Complimentary Oysters and Clams



Photo by: Doug Sowdon



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Complimentary Chowders: Adrift, Gere-a-Deli, & Island Cafe



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Complimentary Popcorn



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Kids Craft Tables



The Salish Sea School Face Painting & Outreach Booth



Appendices

Fidalgo Bay Day Save-the-Date Card

Fidalgo Bay Day Flyer

Fidalgo Bay Day Flyer in Spanish

Event Agenda

Discovery Passport Booklet

The Northwest Straits Foundation's Chowder Sponsorship Invite

Anacortes American Article

Skagit Valley Herald Article- https://www.goskagit.com/local-events/?_evDiscoveryPath=/event%2F3194222-fidalgo-bay-day

1. Abstract

Fidalgo Bay Day is the Skagit Marine Resources Committee's (MRC) signature educational event that has taken place each year since 2004. It is designed to bring the community together to learn, celebrate, connect with and protect the local marine environment. It serves as a platform for local non-profits, government agencies, and conservation-minded businesses to educate, inspire, and empower community members to become stewards of their environment. The event places special emphasis on engaging children and adults through interactive environmental educational activities.

This year's Fidalgo Bay Day event took place on Saturday, September 13, 2025, at the Samish Indian Nation's Fidalgo Bay Resort in Anacortes. The event kicked off at 11:00am with a warm welcome from MRC Member and City of Anacortes Council Member Carolyn Moulton and Coast Salish elder Rosie Cayou James. Highlights included a beach seining demonstration by Samish Indian Nation's Natural Resources staff and volunteers, Shannon Point Marine Center's touch tank, Deception Pass State Park's giant gray whale skull, Corra the Heavy Metal Selkie, educational booths and passport stations, kids' craft activities, complimentary seafood samples, free popcorn and lemonade, and traditional no-host Coast Salish food.

Even though Fidalgo Bay Day is just a small one-day event, it takes a lot of planning, coordination and volunteer support. A Fidalgo Bay Day Planning Committee was formed in January consisting of the Skagit MRC Coordinator and two Skagit County Natural Resources Division staff members. No MRC members joined the Planning Committee this year. The main tasks of the Planning Committee included setting the event the date, reserving the facility, volunteer recruitment, coordinating outreach booths, contacting key players, creating and posting event promotional materials, advertising, and purchasing supplies, etc. Jenn Dumas, a student from the Skagit Valley College Environmental Conservation program, volunteered to take the lead as the Event Coordinator to fulfill one of her school requirements starting in late June. Jenn was responsible for the overall event logistics, coordination, and execution and worked in collaboration with the Planning Committee. Jenn took the lead in recruiting and coordinating volunteers for event setup, cleanup, parking, Zero Waste, kids craft tables, face painting, chowder servers, shellfish BBQ, Welcome Table, popcorn and refreshments, photographers, street banner installation/tear down, beach seining demonstration with Samish Indian Nation staff, attendance counters and interviewers, and volunteer relief. Jenn also took the lead in inviting local businesses to participate and contribute.

The 2025 Fidalgo Bay Day event was a clear success! Though the open layout of the venue makes exact counts difficult, peak attendance reached nearly **400** individuals at 1:00 p.m., with most attendees staying for two to three hours. The event was supported by **46** volunteers (including the Event Coordinator), **33** interactive educational booths, **28** Discovery Passport stations, and **106** Discovery Passport booklets completed. **20** generous businesses, organizations, and individuals contributed complimentary seafood samples, refreshments, door prizes, and other miscellaneous supplies. These numbers reflect strong community investment and enthusiasm for the event's mission. We received a lot of positive feedback from volunteers, outreach booths, and event goers. An online questionnaire was created and sent to participating organizations two weeks after the

event for follow-up feedback. Results will be attached to this report later when they become available.

Fidalgo Bay Day continues to be a beloved community event, fostering connections between the public, Coast Salish peoples, local conservation organizations, government agencies, and businesses while deepening understanding of the marine environment. At the same time, opportunities remain for growth. Participation currently reflects a limited demographic. The Event Coordinator recommends expanding outreach to rural communities, minority populations, and those less familiar with environmental issues would broaden impact. Additionally, the current venue, though scenic and provided at no cost, poses logistical challenges. Parking was at full capacity by midday, access required personal transportation, and the space became congested at times. For the event to grow sustainably, the Event Coordinator recommends the Skagit MRC consider other venue options that could better accommodate accessibility, transportation, and crowd flow.

2. Project Goals

The goal of this annual educational event is to increase public awareness of the marine environment and the creatures that live there, foster stewardship, nurture partnerships, and promote awareness about the important work of the Skagit MRC and other conservation organizations.

The event provides a platform for local government agencies, conservation organizations, and like-minded businesses to connect and build partnerships and educate the public through meaningful, hands-on experiences. Attendees explore how our environment is impacted, discover how they can contribute to solutions, and gain awareness of best practices for stewardship.

Fidalgo Bay Day also plays a vital role in inspiring the next generation. The youth were encouraged to learn about their local environment and see themselves as future stewards of our waterways. Education, accessible to all ages, was the unifying theme of the day, and we believe this objective was successfully achieved.

Beyond education, the event showcased the power of community. Volunteers dedicated many hours, local organizations created welcoming and engaging spaces, and businesses shared food that sustained and was greatly appreciated by attendees. Altogether, the day embodied community building, all centered on the shared goal of conserving and celebrating the marine environment.

3. Project Engagement

3.1. Partners/Organizations

Sponsors/Contributors

1. Adrift Restaurant- provided complimentary chowder (5 gallons) and a server for the event
2. Anacortes Oil and Vinegar Tasting Bar- provided a \$25 gift card as a door prize for volunteers

3. Anthony's Restaurant- provided eight \$25 gift certificates as door prizes for volunteers
4. Friends of the Salish Sea- sponsored the 28 Discovery Passport Stations and prizes
5. Gere-a-Deli- provided complementary chowder (5 gallons) served by Northwest Straits Foundation staff
6. Island Café- provided complimentary chowder (5 gallons) served by Northwest Straits Foundation staff
7. Les Eelkema- Guemes Island Artist provided a piece of art as a door prize for volunteers
8. Northwest Straits Foundation - provided staff to serve the Gere-A-Deli and Island Café chowders.
9. Rosie's Salish Foods- traditional Coast Salish no-host salmon BBQ lunch
10. Samish Indian Nation- free use of the Fidalgo Bay Resort conference center and staffed the beach seining demonstration
11. Saul Vest- a Salish Sea Stewards volunteer, provided a portable microphone for the opening welcome
12. Skagit County Health Department- provided 2 thermometers for chowders
13. Skagit Food Coop- provided 20 free brownies (cut into 4ths), for volunteers and presenters
14. Skagit Gleaners- provided a plethora of fruit for volunteers and presenters
15. Skagit Marine Resources Committee- primary event planners/sponsors. MRC grant funding paid for event advertising/banners, compostable food supplies and permits, grill rental, kids craft supplies, refreshments for volunteers, misc. supplies, etc.
16. Skagit Soils- accepted our compost from the event free of charge (a small truck bed load)
17. Taylor Shellfish- provided complimentary shellfish – prepared, grilled, and served by volunteers
18. The Salish Sea School- provided the popcorn machine- complimentary popcorn served by volunteers
19. The Wishing Rock- provided a \$25 gift card as a door prize for volunteers
20. Watermark Book Company- provided a screen-printed bag, full of books as a door prize for volunteers

Outreach Booths

1. City of Anacortes - Storm Water
2. City of Anacortes - Wastewater Treatment Plant
3. City of Anacortes -Water System
4. Corra the Heavy Metal Selkie, Mutiny Mermaid Pod
5. Deception Pass State Park- Gant gray whale skull on a trailer
6. Eco-Restore

7. Friends of Salish Sea - Forage Fish Surveys/Eggs under a microscope
8. Friends of the Salish Sea - Biodiversity Project
9. Friends of the Salish Sea – Discovery Passport and Coloring Station
10. Friends of the Salish Sea - Stormwater
11. Friends of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands
12. NW Straits Commission
13. NW Straits Foundation
14. Orca Network
15. Pacific Mammal Research (PacMam)
16. Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
17. RE-Sources
18. Samish Nation- DNR- Beach Seining Demonstration
19. Shannon Point Marine Center - Touch Tank
20. Skagit Conservation District
21. Skagit County - Health Dept.
22. Skagit County - Natural Resources
23. Skagit County - Noxious Weeds
24. Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
25. Skagit Land Trust
26. Skagit Marine Resources Committee
27. Swinomish Shore Friendly Program
28. The Salish Sea School
29. The Whale Museum
30. Transition Fidalgo
31. WA Department of Ecology
32. Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
33. Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

3.2. Participants

It takes many volunteers to make Fidalgo Bay Day possible, and every contribution, big or small, was deeply valued. Some volunteers supported in multiple areas, while others focused on just one role. Below is a list of the volunteer “sections” organized by the Event Coordinator, along with the number of people who helped in each. As a volunteer the Event Coordinator was included in these totals.

- Garnering support from local businesses (e.g. chowders, shellfish samples, door prizes, refreshments, composting, etc. - **2**
- Hanging of Sign on R Ave. in Anacortes- **7**
- Posting 165 fliers- **1**
- Set-up Friday, includes getting BBQ Rental- **10**
- Set-up Saturday Morning, including picking up chowders- **10**
- Event day activities, including Welcome Table, beach seine, touch tank, passport station, shellfish BBQ, craft tables, refreshments/door prize tables, popcorn servers, chowder servers, parking crew, - **43**
- Zero Waste - compost monitoring and disposal- **2**
- Tear Down, including returning chowder, popcorn machine, and BBQ, and taking down sign on R Ave.- **12**

Total Unique Volunteers= 46

Total Volunteer Hours= 450

3.3. Named Community(ies) Involved

The Fidalgo Bay Day event was open to all and was widely promoted across Skagit County, though the event location likely drew a higher concentration of Anacortes residents. The event was promoted through online platforms, newspaper articles, paid advertisement in the Skagit Kid Insider, and flyers. Flyers were posted at local businesses and public buildings in Anacortes, La Conner, Burlington, Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley, and Alger/Bow. To increase accessibility, flyers were also translated into Spanish and distributed in primarily Spanish-speaking communities. In addition, a large event banner was placed on R Avenue in Anacortes.

Hosting the event at the Samish Indian Nation’s Fidalgo Bay Resort also had its benefits in that their rented RV spaces and cabins were filled for the weekend and several campers came to the event. Some campers also booked their stay in advance, specifically to attend the Fidalgo Bay Day event.

Fidalgo Bay Day is designed with children in mind, particularly through the popular Discovery Passport activity with prizes, interactive displays, and craft tables. At the same time, the event also attracted retirees and a range of other visitors, many of whom came particularly for the food offerings: chowder, barbecued shellfish, and Rosie’s traditional Coast Salish Food.

While efforts were made to broaden outreach with Spanish-language flyers, this demographic was not strongly represented at the event. A continued challenge is the location itself: tucked away on the bay, it is only accessible by car, and the lack of public transportation makes attendance difficult for those without vehicles.

4. Project Methods/Actions

This was an educational outreach project, and many tools and processes were utilized to ensure a smooth event that fulfilled its' goals:

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- Jenn Dumas from the Skagit Valley College Environmental Conservation program was brought on in late June as a volunteer Event Coordinator.
- The event date was set based on tides for beach seining, the availability of the key players for the beach seining and touch tank activities, the availability of the venue, and potential conflicts with other known planned events.
- Google Docs was used to share and update event documents with the Planning Committee and Event Coordinator.
- A Fidalgo Bay Day email address was created specifically to plan and coordinate the event, so no one's personal email address was used and can be utilized moving forward.
- Monthly meetings were held with the Fidalgo Bay Day Planning Committee and Event Coordinator for brainstorming, task assignments, and status updates.

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- Event flyers were created and translated into Spanish and were posted in public libraries and businesses throughout Skagit County. Event flyers included a QR code with a link to the Fidalgo Bay Day event page on the Skagit MRC website.
- A press release and digital flyers were sent to media outlets and posted to online event calendars.
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- Volunteers were offered light refreshments while volunteering at the Fidalgo Bay Resort facility. This was lemonade, coffee, cucumber water, fresh fruit, cookies, chips, muffins, brownies, etc. This was greatly appreciated and made volunteers feel valued, cared for and likely to volunteer again.
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- 3 weeks prior to the event an email was sent to let booths know the details of the day, where to park, when to set up, etc.
- 2 weeks before the event a map of the layout was sent to let folks know last minute details and where their booth would be located.

- Organizations had the option of setting up their outreach booth displays inside the facility one day before the event and were provided with tables and chairs. Organizations with outdoor outreach booths only had the option to set up on the day of the event and were required to bring their own tables, chairs, and canopies.
- Handwritten thank you cards were sent to all participating organizations.
- A survey was sent for feedback after the event.

Chowder Tasting and Food Permits

- A flyer was created by the Northwest Straits Foundation to invite restaurants in Anacortes to participate in the chowder tastings. The flyer highlighted what the event was all about, the benefits of participating, what would be required and what we would provide.
- The Northwest Straits Foundation reached out to restaurants via email with the flyer to gauge interest in participating but did not get a response. The Event Coordinator followed up with restaurants with several in-person meetings.
- 2 of the 3 businesses that signed up to participate could not provide an employee to serve chowder, so 2 volunteers were recruited to serve chowders which also required them to get their WA State Food Handler's Permit. We were able to set up a group payment option to pay for the food handler cards online once they completed the training and passed the test.
- An Umbrella Food Permit was obtained from the County Health Department one month before the event to avoid any potential late fees. The umbrella permit covered all food served at the event. The participating vendors were each required to fill out and sign individual permit applications filed under the Umbrella Permit. The Event Coordinator provided assistance in filling out the applications. Those individual permits were for: the BBQ shellfish provided by Taylor Shellfish, Rosie's Salish Foods, Adrift, Gere-a-Deli, and Island Cafe.
- Gere-a-Deli and Island Café required chowders to be picked by volunteers on the day of the event. This also included warming vessels and utensils. These were returned to businesses after the event by volunteers.
- The Skagit County Health Department let us borrow two thermometers for those chowders served by volunteers, to ensure we would be able to meet Health Department requirements.

During Event Metrics

- Event Coordinator and one other volunteer counted attendance 3x throughout the day. They also observed how long participants stayed. This is an inexact science due to the open layout of the venue. The pair started together inside and worked their way out of the building and around.

- Some outreach booths used a hand-held counter to count the number of people they spoke to.

Zero Waste

- Contacted Skagit Soils to ensure they would take compostable waste from event at no charge.
- Plates, cups, cutlery, and other compostable items were approved by Skagit Soils before purchasing.
- All food booths were given compostable ware to strive for zero waste.
- Shellfish had to be separated for composting per Skagit Soils request.
- At the venue there were four receptacles for waste with signage and instructions for proper disposal: Trash, Recycling, Compost, Shellfish.
- Volunteers sorted through all trash receptacles to ensure waste was going in the proper disposal bin.
- Compost was hauled offsite to Skagit Soils. Trash and recycling were disposed of properly on-site.
- Because the event ended at 3 pm and Skagit Soil closed at 4 pm, compost was held in the volunteer's vehicle overnight and brought to Skagit Soils the next day.
- Due to the wet nature of the compost, it was collected in plastic bags. At the compost facility, compost was dumped directly from plastic bags into specific locations per facilities request (shellfish goes with concrete) and (compostable ware went with yard waste). No need for paper bags if done this way. Compost was picked through at the facility to remove any trash that didn't get removed at the event.

5. Results

During this reporting period, Fidalgo Bay Day successfully engaged the Skagit Valley community in celebrating and learning about the local marine environment. The event brought together 33 conservation organizations, 46 volunteers, and 13 businesses, creating a meaningful platform for education and community connection. Attendance peaked at nearly 400 participants, with over 100 completing passport activities that fostered hands-on learning. Overall, the project strengthened community partnerships, promoted environmental stewardship, and highlighted the continued value of this annual event.

5.1. Outcomes

Outcome Goal:

- Renewed public awareness and stewardship of the marine environment and creatures that live there.

- Renewed public awareness was achieved and measured by the 106 Discovery Passport booklets completed by attendees which involved engaging with 28 interactive educational passport stations and answering conservation questions
- It is difficult to determine if the goal of increasing stewardship of the marine environment was achieved, but we hope they will put into practice some of the things they learned at the event.
- Increased awareness about the Skagit MRC in the local community.
 - As the primary sponsor of the Fidalgo Bay Day event, there was an increased awareness about the Skagit MRC. The event flyers included a QR code to the MRC website, the MRC was also included in the press release advertisements, social media and newspaper articles. The large interactive MRC outreach booth was present at the event and was a Discover Passport Station. The Skagit MRC logo is on the Welcome Table banner at the entrance of the event. The Welcome remarks by Carolyn Moulton also mentioned the MRC as the event sponsor.
- Strengthened partnerships and coordination within the local marine conservation community and the Samish Indian Nation
 - Strengthened partnerships were achieved by providing an energizing venue for the many groups to come together and learn what the others are working on and opportunities for collaboration in working toward the common goal of conservation, restoration, and community outreach and education.

5.2. Outputs

- 165 fliers posted throughout Skagit County
- Event attendance estimated to be around 400 attendees. Attendee counts were as follows: 11:00 am - 216 people, 12:30 pm - 389 people, 2:00 pm – 297, attendees stayed approximately 2-3 hours
- All parking spaces FULL by mid-event
- 2 outreach booths tracked the number of people they talked to at their booths: values of 186 & 110 were counted
- 33 outreach booths. 28 of them were Discovery Passport stations
- 167 passport booklets given out
- 106 passports completed
- 20 sponsors and other contributors
- 46 volunteers, including the Event Coordinator, contributed a total of 450 volunteer hours including the Event Coordinator's time) 200 of those hours were contributed by the Event Coordinator alone

- 10 full bags of compost kept out of the trash

6. Lessons Learned

- Meeting with volunteers face to face and personal phone calls seemed to be the most effective method for recruiting volunteers.
- An Event Coordinator, an Event Planning Committee, and lots of volunteers are essential in successfully executing this event. It would be beneficial to have volunteers on the Event Planning Committee, not just county staff.
- Refreshments and complimentary samples of chowder and shellfish and no-host Coast Salish food options are important and are expected at this event.
- Complimentary samples of chowder and shellfish and other contributions from local businesses for this event can only happen if a volunteer or a non-profit takes the lead.
- Meeting with businesses face to face is more effective than emailing or calling. It also requires multiple visits to speak to the right people before signing up to participate.
- The QR Code on the Shannon Point Marine Center's touch tanks to listen to the pronunciation of the Lushootseed language for the creatures in the tanks did not work because there was no internet access under the overhang.
- It is best to do the opening welcome outside where there is more room to gather. A portable microphone and amplifier are needed if the opening welcome is done outside. The facility's PA system works great for inside announcements, but it is hard to hear outside of the facility.
- Good idea to have more than one event photographer to capture different moments and perspectives.
- Need to make sure photographers are aware to ask for parents' permission to take photos of children for reports, event promo, website, social media. The event opening remarks during the event kickoff included a statement about photographs and requested attendees let the photographer know if they did not want their photo taken. The photo permission statement was also posted all over the event.
- Paper yard waste bags do not work well for wet compost and are not needed at Skagit Soils if compost is dumped out of the plastic bags at the facility.
- It is difficult to get an accurate count of attendees.

- The event ends at 3pm, but Skagit Soils closes at 4pm. Not much time to get the compost to the facility before they close.
- The Friends of Salish Sea's Discovery Passport Stations and prizes are an important tool for engaging the attendees at the outreach booths.

7. Next Steps

- Skagit MRC does not currently have a Project Lead or staffing capacity to take this project on in 2026.
- Will be reaching out to other organizations and volunteers to gauge interest in taking the lead to make this event happen in 2026.

Images

Hoisting the Event Banner on R Avenue, Anacortes

Photos by: Pete Haase



Event Opening Welcome



Fidalgo Bay Day Welcome Table

In loving memory of Michael Jacobs, an amazing volunteer who lived life to the fullest and made everyone smile



Michael Jacobs (left) and Judy Jacobs (right)



Outdoor Outreach Booths, Discovery Passport Stations and Activities

Friends of the Salish Sea – Discovery Passport Station Headquarters



Discovery Passport Participants



Parking Crew



Corra The Heavy Metal Selkie



Shannon Point Marine Center's Touch Tank

Photos by: Doug Sowdon



Below Photos by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Deception Pass State Park's Gray Whale Skull



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Beach Seining Demonstration with Samish Indian Nation Staff & Volunteers



Photo by: Doug Sowdon



Photo by: Tracy Alker



Photo by: Tracy Alker



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Northwest Straits Commission- European Green Crab Outreach



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Northwest Straits Foundation



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Swinomish Indian Tribal Community- Shore Friendly



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Skagit County Clean Water Program



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Indoor Outreach Booths and Discovery Passport Stations

Skagit MRC's Interactive Kelp Forest Ecosystem Highlighting Pinto Abalone Restoration



Photo by: Tracy Alker



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Padilla Bay NERR



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson

Skagit Land Trust



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson

Forage Fish Outreach



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Orca Network's Inflatable Whale



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Skagit County Noxious Weeds



Photo by: Tracy Alker

RE-Sources



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Pacific Mammal Research



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

WA Dept. of Ecology



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Rosie's Salish Foods



Photo by: Doug Sowdon



Photo by: Doug Sowdon



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Taylor Shellfish - Complimentary Oysters and Clams



Photo by: Doug Sowdon



Photo by: Doug Sowdon

Complimentary Chowders: Adrift, Gere-a-Deli, & Island Cafe



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Complimentary Popcorn



Photo by: Tracy Alker

Kids Craft Tables



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Photo by: Tracy Alker

The Salish Sea School Face Painting & Outreach Booth



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson



Photo by: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson

Appendices

Fidalgo Bay Day Save-the-Date Card

Fidalgo Bay Day Flyer

Fidalgo Bay Day Flyer in Spanish

Event Agenda

Discovery Passport Booklet

The Northwest Straits Foundation's Chowder Sponsorship Invite

Anacortes American Article

Skagit Valley Herald Article- https://www.goskagit.com/local-events/?_evDiscoveryPath=/event%2F3194222-fidalgo-bay-day

Go With the Flow

SAVE THE DATE!

Fidalgo Bay Day

Saturday, September 13,
2025

11:00am -3:00pm

Fidalgo Bay Resort
4701 Fidalgo Bay Rd. Anacortes



www.skagitmrc.org



Learn What's Current
With Skagit Marine Resources Committee & Friends

Fidalgo Bay Day

Saturday, September 13, 2025
11am-3pm

Fidalgo Bay Resort 4701, Fidalgo Bay Rd Anacortes

FREE
Fun & Educational
For the Entire Family



Go With the Flow
Learn What's Current

With Skagit Marine Resources Committee & Friends

Artwork- Durla Gay Smith

- Educational Discovery Stations and Prizes
 - Beach Seining Demonstration
 - A Touch Tank with Living Sea Creatures
 - Kid Friendly Craft Tables
 - Tasty Local Seafood
 - And So Much More
- www.skagitmrc.org**



This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under Assistance Agreement CE01J65401 to Puget Sound Partnership. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

Fidalgo Bay Day

Sábado, 13 de Septiembre de 2025
11am-3pm

Fidalgo Bay Resort 4701, Fidalgo Bay Rd Anacortes

GRATIS

**Divertido y Educativo
Para Toda la Familia**

Déjate llevar por la corriente
Infórmate de lo más reciente

Con el Comité de Recursos Marinos y Amigos de Skagit



Artwork- Durla Gay Smith

- Estaciones de descubrimiento educativas y premios
- Demostración de redes en la playa
- Un tanque táctil con criaturas marinas vivas
- Mesas de manualidades para niños
- Sabrosos mariscos locales
- Y mucho más

www.skagitmrc.org



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Fidalgo Bay Day 2025

Event Schedule

Friday, September 12, 2025

Noon-4:30pm: Event Setup

Saturday, September 13, 2025

8:30am – 11:00am: Event Setup

11:00am – 11:30: Event Announcements/Welcoming Remarks

1:00pm- 1:30pm: Beach Seining Demo

**11:00am-3:00pm: Interactive Educational Outreach Booth
Activities/Discovery Passport Stations, Kids Crafts, Face Painting,
Undersea Zoo, etc.**

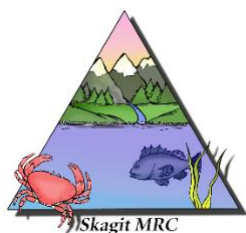
3:00pm – 4:30pm: Event Cleanup



FIDALGO BAY DAY

2025 Discovery Passport

Thanks to these sponsoring organizations for making this event possible.



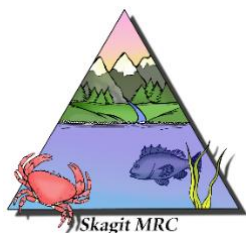
Artwork by Hai



FIDALGO BAY DAY

2025 Discovery Passport

Thanks to these sponsoring organizations for making this event possible.



Artwork by Hai

Station 28

Today's Activities

The Whale Museum

Outside

- 11:00 am Event Kickoff with a Warm Welcome by Carolyn Moulton and Rosie Cayou James
- 1:00 pm Beach Seining at the Boat Ramp
- Visit Passport Stations
- **Traditional Coast Salish Salmon Lunch**
(Purchase on east side of building)

Inside the Clubhouse & On the Patio

- Visit Passport Stations
- Interactive Educational Displays
- Arts & Crafts Activities
- Sample Seafood and Chowder

Children: What are two types of killer whales we have here locally?

Adults: What is the distance boaters are required to stay away from Southern Resident killer whales?



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The Whale Museum

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- 11:00 am Event Kickoff with a Warm Welcome by Carolyn Moulton and Rosie Cayou James
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Children: What are two types of killer whales we have here locally?

Adults: What is the distance boaters are required to stay away from Southern Resident killer whales?



Station 27

**Skagit County
Noxious Weeds Division**

Children:

What makes a plant a noxious weed?

What are the consequences of noxious weeds spreading?

Adults:

What are some of the most common noxious weeds in Skagit County?

Who is responsible for controlling noxious weeds?



Station 27

**Skagit County
Noxious Weeds Division**

Children:

What makes a plant a noxious weed?

What are the consequences of noxious weeds spreading?

Adults:

What are some of the most common noxious weeds in Skagit County?

Who is responsible for controlling noxious weeds?



Discovery Passport Instructions

Visit passport stations inside and outside (identified with numbered flags) and talk with the table hosts. Answer the questions and receive a sticker from each station.

Collect at least 10 stickers, show your passport at Station #1 by 3:00 pm and pick up your prize!

Have Fun!

Discovery Passport Instructions

Visit passport stations inside and outside (identified with numbered flags) and talk with the table hosts. Answer the questions and receive a sticker from each station.

Collect at least 10 stickers, show your passport at Station #1 by 3:00 pm and pick up your prize!

Have Fun!

Station 1

Start here and come back for a PRIZE!

COLORING CONTEST

Pick up a coloring contest sheet here at Station #1 and draw us a picture inspired by what you learned today!

The winning entry will appear on the cover of the 2026 Discovery Passport.



Station 1

Start here and come back for a PRIZE!

COLORING CONTEST

Pick up a coloring contest sheet here at Station #1 and draw us a picture inspired by what you learned today!

The winning entry will appear on the cover of the 2026 Discovery Passport.



Station 26

Friends of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands

Children & Adults:

Roughly how many miles of trails are in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands?



Station 26

Friends of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands

Children & Adults:

Roughly how many miles of trails are in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands?



Station 25

Skagit County Health Department

Children & Adults:

How many on-site sewage systems are there in Skagit County?



Station 25

Skagit County Health Department

Children & Adults:

How many on-site sewage systems are there in Skagit County?



Station 2

Salish Sea Stormwater Monitoring Project

Children & Adults:

1. If you could see stormwater traveling through the storm drains, what do you think it would look like?
2. Would it be clean or dirty?



Station 2

Salish Sea Stormwater Monitoring Project

Children & Adults:

3. If you could see stormwater traveling through the storm drains, what do you think it would look like?
4. Would it be clean or dirty?



Station 3

**Friends of the Salish Sea
Biodiversity Project**

Children: How many different sea creatures (fish, worms, crabs, snails and more) live in Fidalgo Bay?

- A) 10
- B) 50
- C) 100
- D) 500

Adults: What does biological diversity mean to you?



Station 3

**Friends of the Salish Sea
Biodiversity Project**

Children: How many different sea creatures (fish, worms, crabs, snails and more) live in Fidalgo Bay?

- A) 10
- B) 50
- C) 100
- D) 500

Adults: What does biological diversity mean to you?



Station 24

Transition Fidalgo

Children: Which of the following can be recycled?

- A) Aluminum
- B) Cardboard
- C) Glass
- D) All of the above

Adults: Transition Fidalgo sponsors many programs around Fidalgo Island. Can you name two of our programs/projects?



Station 24

Transition Fidalgo

Children: Which of the following can be recycled?

- A) Aluminum
- B) Cardboard
- C) Glass
- D) All of the above

Adults: Transition Fidalgo sponsors many programs around Fidalgo Island. Can you name two of our programs/projects?



Station 23

WA Department of Ecology

Children: True or False? Can pollutants (such as oil or garbage) on the ground end up in the ocean? Why true or false?

Adults: What are 3 ways that you can help restore ecological functions and habitats in the Padilla and Fidalgo Bays?



Station 23

WA Department of Ecology

Children: True or False? Can pollutants (such as oil or garbage) on the ground end up in the ocean? Why true or false?

Adults: What are 3 ways that you can help restore ecological functions and habitats in the Padilla and Fidalgo Bays?



Station 4

Forage Fish

Children: There are many types of forage fish; but all are small, silver schooling fish that eat the plankton at the base of the food web and then are foraged upon by larger predators. True or False?

Adults: A healthy beach that supports surf smelt spawning, must have sand, pea gravel, drift wood, sea weed on the wrack line and shading. True or False?



Station 4

Forage Fish

Children: There are many types of forage fish; but all are small, silver schooling fish that eat the plankton at the base of the food web and then are foraged upon by larger predators. True or False?

Adults: A healthy beach that supports surf smelt spawning, must have sand, pea gravel, drift wood, sea weed on the wrack line and shading. True or False?



Station 5

**WA Department of Natural Resources
Aquatic Reserves Program**

Children: Name an important species that can be found in the Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve.

Adults: Name one identifying characteristic of European Green Crab.



Station 5

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Children: Name an important species that can be found in the Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve.

Adults: Name one identifying characteristic of European Green Crab.

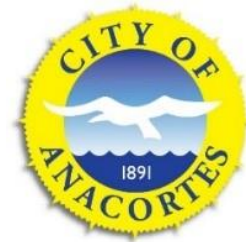


Station 22

**City of Anacortes
Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Children: The water that you flush down the toilet in Anacortes, where does it end up?

Adults: How long does it take for your flush to make it to the bay?

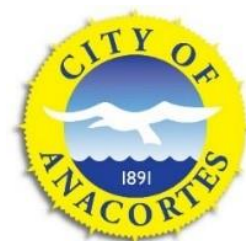


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Children: The water that you flush down the toilet in Anacortes, where does it end up?

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Station 21

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group

Children: Which salmon grows the largest?

Adults: Why do some species of salmon have pinker flesh than others?



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Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group

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Station 6

Deception Pass State Park

Children: What animal does this giant skull belong to?

Adults: Why is it important that the skull does not have teeth?



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Deception Pass State Park

Children: What animal does this giant skull belong to?

Adults: Why is it important that the skull does not have teeth?



Station 7

**Wolf Hollow Wildlife
Rehabilitation Center**

Children: What are actions you can take to protect wildlife?

Adults: What are some of the reasons that animals end up at the wildlife hospital?



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**Wolf Hollow Wildlife
Rehabilitation Center**

Children: What are actions you can take to protect wildlife?

Adults: What are some of the reasons that animals end up at the wildlife hospital?



Station 20

City of Anacortes Stormwater Program

Children:

1. Name one animal that lives in Fidalgo Bay and needs clean water to survive.
2. Can you find the storm drain marker on our display? What picture is on it?

Adults:

1. What is the main purpose of Anacortes' Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination program?
2. What is one type of green stormwater infrastructure used in Anacortes?



Station 20

City of Anacortes Stormwater Program

Children:

3. Name one animal that lives in Fidalgo Bay and needs clean water to survive.
4. Can you find the storm drain marker on our display? What picture is on it?

Adults:

3. What is the main purpose of Anacortes' Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination program?
4. What is one type of green stormwater infrastructure used in Anacortes?



Station 19

Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Children & Adults:

Is Eelgrass an algae or plant?



Station 8

Pacific Mammal Research

Children: What shape dorsal fin does a harbor porpoise have?

Adults: Where is there a resident local population of harbor porpoises in the Salish Sea?



Station 19

Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Children & Adults:

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Pacific Mammal Research

Children: What shape dorsal fin does a harbor porpoise have?

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Station 9

Northwest Straits Commission

Children: European green crabs are always the color green. True or False?

Adults: How many spines does a European green crab have on either side of its eyes?

- A) 5
- B) 8
- C) 4



Station 9

Northwest Straits Commission

Children: European green crabs are always the color green. True or False?

Adults: How many spines does a European green crab have on either side of its eyes?

- A) 5
- B) 8
- C) 4



Station 18

Skagit County Natural Resources Division

Children: Water that goes down the storm drain gets filtered before it goes into streams, lakes, and bays. True or False?

Adults: Name three common sources of stormwater pollution in neighborhoods.



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Skagit County Natural Resources Division

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Station 17

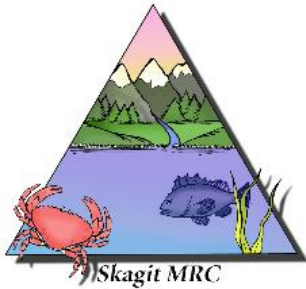
Skagit Marine Resources Committee

Children: What do Pinto abalone like to eat?

- A) Fish
- B) Algae
- C) Pizza

Adults: How are pinto abalone beneficial to help forest ecosystems?

- A) Promote biodiversity by clearing habitat
- B) Important food source
- C) Cycle nutrients
- D) All of the above



Station 17

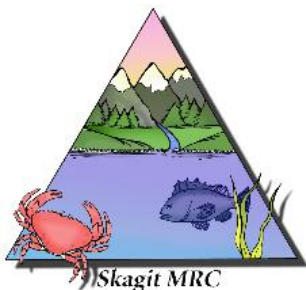
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Station 10

Skagit Land Trust

Children: What large bird does the Skagit Land Trust help at Fidalgo Bay?

Adults: How does Skagit Land Trust help Fidalgo Bay?



Station 10

Skagit Land Trust

Children: What large bird does the Skagit Land Trust help at Fidalgo Bay?

Adults: How does Skagit Land Trust help Fidalgo Bay?



Station 11

RE SOURCES

Adults & Children:

What are ways you can combat stormwater pollution?



Station 16

Skagit Conservation District

Children: What does everything need in order to live?

Adults: Why is habitat important?



Station 11

RE SOURCES

Adults & Children:

What are ways you can combat stormwater pollution?



Station 16

Skagit Conservation District

Children: What does everything need in order to live?

Adults: Why is habitat important?



Station 15

Orca Network

Children: What is the favorite food of the Sounders gray whales?

Adults: There are two types of orcas in the Salish Sea - Bigg's and Southern Residents. Which one is endangered and why?



Station 15

Orca Network

Children: What is the favorite food of the Sounders gray whales?

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Station 12

City of Anacortes Water System

Children:

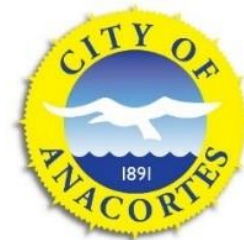
What is the water source for the Anacortes drinking water supply?

What do you have to do to water before it can be consumed?

Adults:

How much water does the Anacortes WTP produce in a year?

How can I lower my water consumption?



Station 12

City of Anacortes Water System

Children:

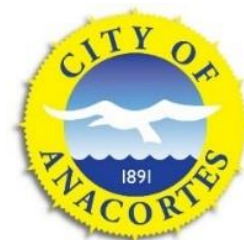
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What do you have to do to water before it can be consumed?

Adults:

How much water does the Anacortes WTP produce in a year?

How can I lower my water consumption?



Station 13

Salish Sea School

Children: What type of puffin do we have in Washington?

Adults: What is the difference between a Tufted Puffin and an Atlantic Puffin?



Station 13

Salish Sea School

Children: What type of puffin do we have in Washington?

Adults: What is the difference between a Tufted Puffin and an Atlantic Puffin?



Station 14

**Corra the Heavy Metal Selkie
Mutiny Mermaid Pod**

Children: How do seals move on land?

Adults: How Far away do you need to be when you see a seal?



Station 14

**Corra the Heavy Metal Selkie
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Children: How do seals move on land?

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FIDALGO BAY DAY



A CHOWDER TASTING

Two decades of dishing up the best from our local kitchens!

The Skagit Marine Resources Committee and the Northwest Strait Foundation are inviting local restaurants to participate in the beloved Chowder Showcase at Fidalgo Bay Day—a free, family-friendly event celebrating our marine environment with over 300 attendees each year. We're seeking generous culinary partners help with the event.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

-  **Showcase your signature chowder to a broad, appreciative audience**
-  **Build community goodwill and show your support for marine conservation**
-  **Get featured in event signage, social media, and press materials**
-  **Network with local leaders, environmental partners, and potential customers**
-  **Your participation supports hands-on environmental education and stewardship**

What We Provide:

- 6' table with tablecloth
- 4oz compostable tasting cups and spoons
- Event signage with your logo and name
- Umbrella Food Permit
- Promotion before, during, and after the event

What You Bring:

- 5 gallons of your best chowder
- A warming vessel
- Serving utensils
- One staff member with a Washington Food Worker Card (for about 4 hours)

scan for participant form,
fill out and email to
erika@nwstraitsfoundation.org



**11 AM TO 3 PM
SEPTEMBER 13 2025
FIDALGO BAY RESORT**

Community celebrates marine wonders at Fidalgo Bay Day

ERNIE HAYDEN

For the Anacortes American

Hundreds of visitors made their way on Saturday, Sept. 13, to the Samish Indian Nation's Fidalgo Bay Resort for the 21st Fidalgo Bay Day — a community tradition dedicated to celebrating and safeguarding the area's marine environment.

Hosted by the Skagit Marine Resources Committee and a coalition of local organizations, Fidalgo Bay Day transformed the east end of the RV park into a hub of discovery, food and fun for all ages.

The day began with a welcome from Anacortes City Councilmember Carolyn Moulton and Coast Salish Elder Rosie Cayou James. The pair emphasized that the celebration was rooted in community and environmental stewardship.

More than 40 participating businesses and organizations — from conservation groups to local eateries — contributed to the event.

Visitors were met with a lineup of exhibits, 37 in all, designed to spark curiosity about the Salish Sea.

From interactive touch tanks courtesy of the Shannon Point Marine Center, to beach seining demonstrations with Samish Indian Nation experts, guests got up close with marine critters.

Many learned about the importance of preserving habitats such as eelgrass beds, salt marshes and tidal flats. Young explorers collected Discovery Passport stamps, played games and got creative at craft tables, vying for spots in a coloring contest.



ERNIE HAYDEN / FOR THE ANACORTES AMERICAN

The indoor display area for Fidalgo Bay Day is bustling with activity on Saturday, Sept. 13.

More **WONDERS** | A6

Wonders/

from A1

State Parks rangers introduced visitors to whale baleen and skeleton anatomy, and representatives from the Northwest Straits Commission and Foundation educated attendees on issues such as green crab infestations.

Food lovers sampled local fare, including complimentary shellfish and chowder courtesy of Taylor Shellfish, Adrift, Gere-A-Deli and Island Cafe, with a traditional no-host Coast Salish salmon BBQ and fry bread lunch available

for purchase.

Thanks to Skagit Soils and volunteers, the event strove for near-zero waste.

Behind the scenes, organizers such as Jenn Dumas with Salish Sea Stewards and Skagit Valley College, and Dale Fournier coordinated the festivities.

Dumas and Fournier said they were enthusiastic about the turnout and community engagement.

For more information or to explore volunteer opportunities, visit skagitmrc.org, skagitmrc.org/projects/salish-sea-stewards/, or contact fidalgobaydayskagitmrc@gmail.com.

https://www.goskagit.com/news/environment/fidalgo-bay-day-returns-for-21st-time/article_0e54233a-ef6c-4e13-817c-999d1973f30c.html

Fidalgo Bay Day returns for 21st time

EMMA FLETCHER-FRAZER Skagit Valley Herald
Sep 4, 2025





Kids learn about sea creatures through touch tanks provided by the Shannon Point Marine Center at Fidalgo Bay Day in 2024.

Skagit Valley Herald file

A summer event celebrating Fidalgo Bay will return this month for its 21st iteration.

Fidalgo Bay Day will be held 11 a.m. to 3 p.m Saturday, Sept. 13, at Fidalgo Bay Resort.

The day is "filled with a variety of activities to help celebrate our local estuaries and their beauty, history, and wonderful marine life," according to a Skagit County news release.

The free event, hosted by the Skagit Marine Resources Committee, will include a traditional Coast Salish salmon barbecue lunch, a beach seining demonstration, kids crafts and games.



The Skagit Marine Resources Committee works with a variety of partners to put on the event.

Samples of oysters and mussels from Taylor Shellfish and chowder from Adrift, Gere-a-Deli, and Island Café will be available.

Shannon Point Marine Center will offer an opportunity to touch marine animals.

Several local organizations will host educational exhibits.

Emma Fletcher-Frazer can be reached at efletcher-frazer@skagitpublishing.com, 360-416-2199

Emma Fletcher-Frazer



From: [Skagit County, WA](#)
To: [Tracy Alker](#)
Subject: 2025 Fidalgo Bay Day
Date: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 11:02:13 AM

Skagit County



PRESS RELEASE
August 20, 2025

Contact
Jenn Dumas
Fidalgo Bay Day Event Coordinator
fidalgobaydayskagitmrc@gmail.com
360-416-1462

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2025 Fidalgo Bay Day

Come join the Skagit Marine Resources Committee (MRC) and friends for a FREE, fun, family outing at our 21st annual Fidalgo Bay Day event on Saturday, September 13th, from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Samish Indian Nation's beautiful Fidalgo Bay Resort, located at 4701 Fidalgo Bay Road in Anacortes.

The event will kick off at 11:00a.m. with a warm welcome by Carolyn Moulton, Anacortes City Councilmember and Skagit MRC member, and Coast Salish Elder Rosie Cayou James, followed by a day filled with a variety of activities to help celebrate our local estuaries and their beauty, history, and wonderful marine life. Take part in our popular beach seining demonstration at 1:00 p.m., touch live marine critters in Shannon Point Marine Center's undersea zoo, get creative at the kid friendly craft tables, play fun games, win prizes, and learn about local projects and volunteer opportunities at the many educational exhibits staffed by local agencies and organizations. Be sure to stop by to say hello to Corra, the live mermaid-selkie, and learn some cool things about Corra's underwater habitat beneath the Salish Sea.

In addition to all the fun activities, you can satisfy your appetite with a fabulous no-host traditional Coast Salish salmon BBQ lunch! You'll also get to taste complimentary samples of oysters and mussels from Taylor Shellfish grilled to perfection by our volunteers and delicious chowder samples from Adrift, Gere-a-deli, and Island Cafe. Thanks to our volunteers, the Fidalgo Bay Resort, and Skagit Soils Inc. Composting for making this a near zero-waste event!

Fidalgo Bay Day is an educational event hosted by the Skagit County MRC and is planned

and carried out with support from our partners and volunteers. Our partners and other contributors include the Samish Indian Nation, Skagit County Natural Resources Division, Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Friends of Skagit Beaches, Salish Sea Stewards, Northwest Straits Initiative, Northwest Straits Foundation, the Puget Sound Partnership, the Environmental Protection Agency, Skagit Soils, Adrift, Taylor Shellfish, Anthony's at Cap Sante Marina, Gere-a-Deli, Watermark Book Co., Island Cafe, The Wishing Rock, and Anacortes Oil & Vinegar Tasting Bar. For more information about the event, visit www.skagitmrc.org.

This event is funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under Assistance Agreement [CE-01J65401]. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

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Skagit County



SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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