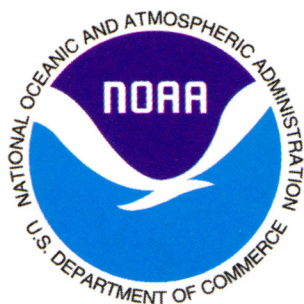
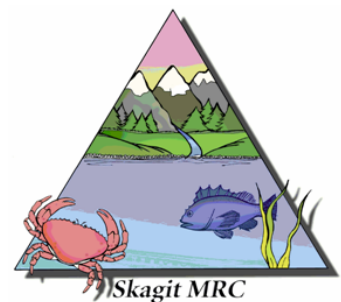


# Fidalgo Bay Day

A Public Education Program Sponsored by  
Skagit County Marine Resources Committee  
and  
Anacortes Community Maritime Center  
2006 Report



NORTHWEST STRAITS  
marine conservation initiative



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# Fidalgo Bay Day 2006

Fidalgo Bay Day got its start in 2004 as Marine Ecology Day. The goal of the event has remained the same since that first celebration: increasing public awareness of the marine environment and the creatures who live there. The goal has been to attract at least 200 people to the all-day event. The first two years fell far short of the goal, in spite of excellent programs and publicity.

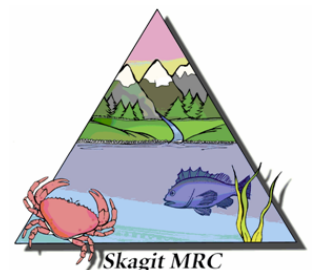
Paul Dinnel suggested that what we really needed was free seafood and music, and that seemed to provide the magic ingredient for the day. Paul not only made the suggestion, he made it HAPPEN, rounding up a donation of shellfish from a very generous Taylor Shellfish Farms and then preparing 75 pounds of clams and 30 dozen oysters for the happy crowd of nearly 350 people.

The planning for Fidalgo Bay Day 2006 suffered quite a shock in the spring just as we were beginning to launch the first publicity: the venue we had reserved, Seafarers' Park in Anacortes, would be torn up for construction during September and we wouldn't be able to use it. Fortunately, this piece of news came to light at a Skagit County Marine Resources Committee meeting and Christine Woodward of the Samish Nation came to the rescue with her suggestion to use the Fidalgo Bay Resort instead.

The new location proved fortuitous. The Samish Indian Nation had planned one of their two annual affairs for the same date as Fidalgo Bay Day and the same place, though no one had told them that we had reserved the gathering hall. They very generously agreed to share their day with our event, even contributing a lovely welcome and prayer as well as several fascinating and active displays.

The success of this year's Fidalgo Bay Day is due to the active partnership of several groups:

- The Skagit Marine Resources Committee supported the event with a budget of \$2000 and the key efforts of several members.
- The Samish Indian Nation provided endless good will, flexibility at the facility when we most needed it, an unforgettable welcome ceremony, a presentation, and several active and interesting displays.
- The Anacortes Community Maritime Center provided liability insurance, signage, the purchase of some of the food, the help of many members, a display and a number of kids' activities.



- WSU Skagit-Snohomish Beach Watchers provided many volunteers to help with everything from clam cookery to the kids' activities. They also brought cakes and cookies and funded the flannel board and the popular button making activity for the kids.
- Taylor Shellfish Farms provided the clams and oysters at no charge, a huge donation to the cause.
- Dan Penttila of WDFW provided a beach seine, a microscope with egg samples and lots of fish and shrimp for all to look at. The beach seine was a huge hit with everyone and the microscope proved to be a popular stopping place for kids and adults alike.
- People for Puget Sound provided help in getting the word out. On the day of the event, Britta Escheté showed up with three enthusiastic teens, all eager to spend the day helping with the children's activities.

We also had the help of a number of businesses: Taylor Shellfish Farms was very generous in their donation of seventy-five pounds of Manila clams and thirty dozen oysters. Randy's Pier 61, Flounder Bay Café and The Captain's Place restaurants all chipped in with great soup pots of chowder for the crowd to sample. Bill Bailey and his partner Rosie Cayou prepared delicious salmon luncheon plates for all of us. Clearsnap, Incorporated, of Anacortes provided one of their key employees to supervise kids creating fun and art with fancy stamps and papers.

We were fortunate to have excellent coverage of Fidalgo Bay Day in the issue of the Anacortes American just a few days before the event. We also rented the banner over the main street of Anacortes during the week before the event to remind people that it was coming. We supplied one-third-page flyers to the participating restaurants to hand out to their customers. Finally, the fellows from the ACMC made sandwich board signs with balloons tied to them to place at strategic corners on the day of the event to direct people out to the somewhat out-of-the-way resort.

Another key factor in the success of the event was advertising to the children of the area. Beach Watcher Fran Jepperson, a retired teacher, advised us that a notice to schools was nearly pointless unless it took the form of a flyer for every kid's backpack. So Beach Watcher and ACMC member Pat Steffani printed 1500 little flyers with a map on the back, packaged them into class-sized bundles and delivered them to each of the elementary schools in Anacortes.





It is hard to know just how many kids showed up with their parents, but we ran out of our 50 passports and 50 button sets in two hours. The flyers proved to be a very effective advertising technique when combined with supporting ads and publicity.

Other displays were sponsored by:

Anacortes Community Maritime Center

Anacortes Museum

Leave No Trace organization

Orca Network

People for Puget Sound

Samish Indian Nation

Skagit County Marine Resources Committee

Skagit Land Trust

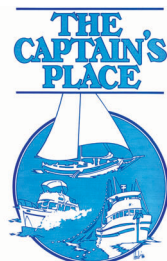
Surf Rider Foundation

Washington Department of Natural Resources / Aquatic Reserve proposal for Fidalgo Bay

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

WSU Skagit-Snohomish Beachwatchers

The photographs in this report were taken by Jean Bailey of Anacortes and are used here with her permission. Jean also designed the beautiful 11" x 17" four-color poster we used to advertise the event.





Visitors passed by a dynamic display by the Leave No Trace organization on their way into the building.



Leslie Eastwood, cultural coordinator for the Samish Tribe, organized a demonstration showing how to make rope from nettle fiber.



The Samish provided a demonstration of making anchors and net weights from stones.

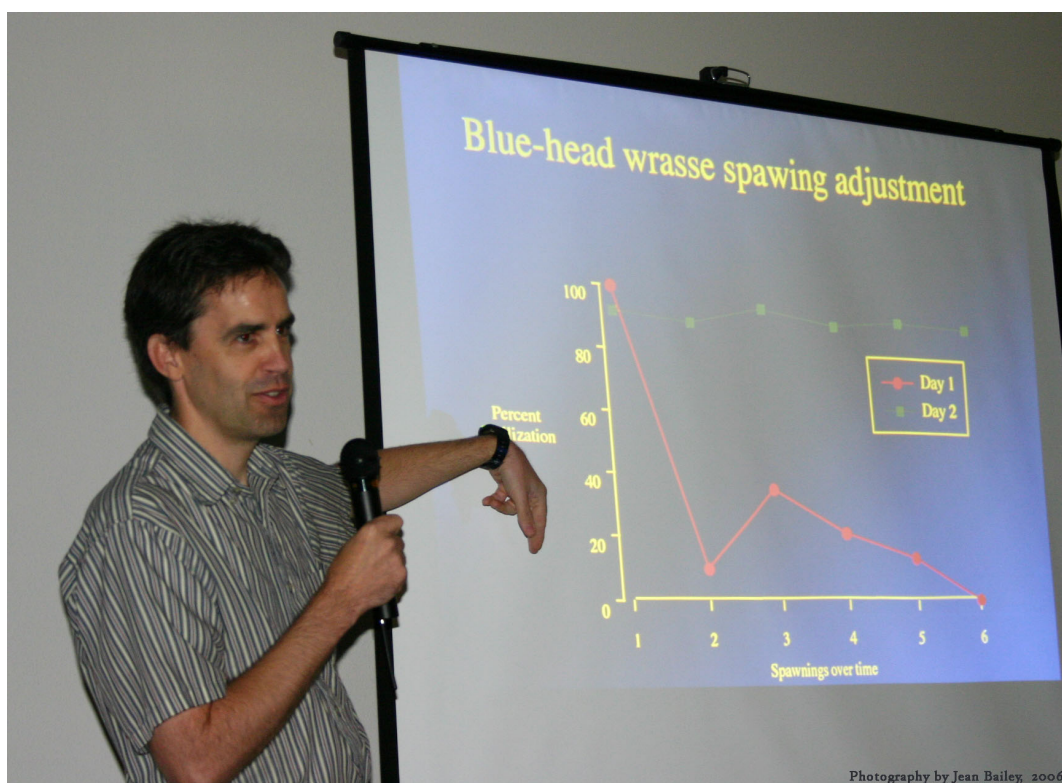


The Samish Indian Nation provided a moving and memorable welcome for all of us sharing their facility.





Anacortes naturalist Denise Crowe (far left) opened our program with a talk about the watershed surrounding Fidalgo Bay.



Dr. Brian Bingham of Shannon Point Marine Center provided a fascinating presentation about relationships between species under the sea.





Photography by Jean Bailey, 2006

Kids's activities included a table with seaweeds and the products made with ingredients from seaweeds. The kids liked the marshmallow form of seaweed products best! Beachwatcher Barbara Martyn-Godfrey conceived the display and tended it for the whole event.



Photography by Jean Bailey, 2006

Beachwatcher Pat Steffani shows off local native plants to Garry Cline of the Anacortes Museum. The Museum had a display at the event showing historical locations of the mills and canneries of Anacortes. Both Pat and Garry are members of the Anacortes Community Maritime Center.





Clearsnap, Incorporated, of Anacortes provided Harriet Vick (far left) to show kids how to make artistic creations with art stamps and papers.



WSU Beachwatcher coordinator Chrys Bertolotto shows a youngster where the animals of the seashore like to live. Beachwatcher Fran Jepperson prepared the flannel board display.





Photography by Jean Bailey 2006

Paul Dinnel put together this display of shellfish and then ran a contest to see who could identify all of them. The winner, a fellow from Anacortes, won a beautiful ceramic casserole dish in the shape of a crab. Paul also supplied the prize! The little girl holds one of the passports we prepared for the children.



Photography by Jean Bailey, 2006

Dan Penttila of WDFW brought a huge display which included this microscope. Looking at fish eggs under the microscope proved to be one of our most popular activities for both kids and adults.

Dan Penttila brought an assortment of local shrimp as a part of his large display.



Surf smelt were also a part of the WDFW display.



The kids were eager to help  
Dan prepare the seine.



The seine makes a pretty curve in the water just off the beach.





Photography by Jean Bailey, 2006

Everyone gets in on hauling in the seine line.

Dan Penttila shows the crowd a pretty little sculpin which came up in the seine.



Photography by Jean Bailey, 2006





Shiner perch came up in the seine in amazing abundance.



One of the advantages of a facility so near the beach is that the kids also found their own fascinating things to do.





Darwin Anderson of The Captain's Place restaurant in Anacortes was one of three restaurant owners to provide free chowder samples to attendees. The other two were Randy's Pier 61 and Flounder Bay Café.



Taylor Shellfish Farms donated clams and oysters for the event.





Paul Dinnel and his wife, Vicki McNeil, were the main organizers of the clam and oyster cooking. Here are three of their helpers: l to r: Ric Boge of Skagit County Public Works, Betty Carteret of WSU Skagit-Snohomish Beachwatchers and Tony Bull of Anacortes Community Maritime Center.

Lyndon Greene, President of the Anacortes Community Maritime Center, helps out on the barbecue.



Samish Tribal member Bill Bailey estimated the number of people at the event to be 350 based on the number of salmon luncheon plates he and his partner Rosie Cayou sold.



Skagit MRC member Paul Sund entertained the crowd with his Backyard Band.

# Publicity

This section contains copies of the newspaper articles which ran prior to the event.

# Advertising

This section contains representative ads placed in the Anacortes American and the Clammdigger, both local weekly publications as well as copies of the flyers, posters, and the program which was handed out at the event.



# Contacts

## Those Who Helped

Several hundred hours went into the planning and execution of Fidalgo Bay Day. This could not have been achieved without the help of many, many people. I list below the major helpers with their affiliations.

Bailey, Bill and Rosie Cayou	S	Barbecued salmon lunch
Bailey, Jean	A	Poster design
Bertolotto, Chrys	B	Kids' activities
Bingham, Brian	Shannon Point Marine Center	Presentation
Bull, Tony	A	Barbecue, signage
Bullock, Scott	Surf Rider Foundation	Display
Carteret, Betty	B	Volunteer coordinator
Cline, Garry	A, Anacortes Museum	Museum display, kids' activities
Crowe, Denise	Friends of the Forest	Presentation
Davis, Catherine	B	Greeter, cookies
Dinnel, Paul	A, M	Oysters & clams, barbecue, shellfish display
Doran, Molly	Skagit Land Trust	Display
Eastwood, Leslie	S	Liaison with Samish Tribe, welcome, craft demonstrations
Eschete, Britte	P	Kids' activities, publicity
Folsom, Lin	B	Passport activity
Greene, Lyndon	A	Signage, kids' activities, barbecue
Jahn, Dian	B	Poster distribution
Jepperson, Fran	B	Children's activities, cookies
Lewis, Mike	A	Paddleboat pool
Madsen, Jean & Mikel	S	Fidalgo Bay Resort managers
Martyn-Godfrey, Barbara	B	Kids' seaweed display
Mazza, Dennis	A	Paddleboat pool
McGinnis-Brown, Charlaïne	B	Cookies, kids' activities
McNeil, Vicki	A	Barbecue
O'Connell, Keeley	P,M	Kids' activities
Penttila, Dan	WDFW	Beach seine presentation, display
Pickett, Bob	A	Microscope monitor
Pickett, Erica	A,B,M	Event chair, advertising
Ramaglia, Jim	M	Kids' trading cards, slide show presentation
Rice, Andrew	Academic Adventures	Display assistance
Rosenbower, Nancy	S	Presentation
Shen, Eric	B	Microscope monitor, parking planner
Steffani, Pat	A,B	Planner, display assistance
Sund, Paul	M	Music
Tolman, Cary	A	Paddleboat pool
Vick, Harriet	Clearsnap, Inc	Kids' art activity
Woodward, Christine	S,M	Presentation, liaison with Samish Tribe

A = Anacortes Community Maritime Center  
 B = WSU Skagit-Snohomish Beach Watchers  
 M = Skagit County Marine Resources Committee  
 S = Samish Tribal Nation