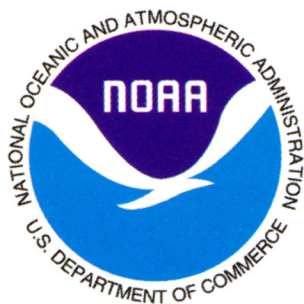
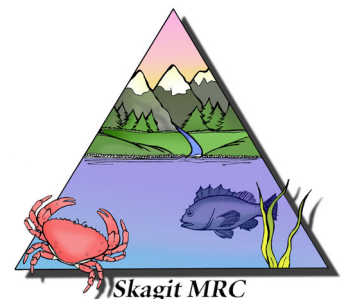


# Fidalgo Bay Day 2011

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



NORTHWEST STRAITS  
marine conservation initiative



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# Fidalgo Bay Day 2011

Every event has its own set of unknowns, its possibilities and potentials. This year the weather brought us a dry day, but a day with a cold wind and gray sky. School had started later in the year than it usually does because of a quirk of the calendar and we wondered if a smaller and harried school staff would remember to deliver our messages about Fidalgo Bay Day to all their students.

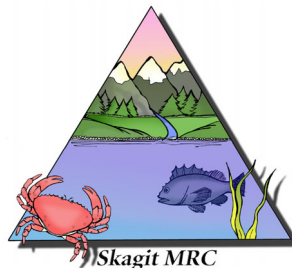
And we wondered about the new beach at Seafarers' Memorial Park. We knew from talking to Port staff that the mud, bricks, stones and planks which had been clammed up out of the area and barged over to Pier 2 for sorting had shown no life. No worms, no clams, no seaweed. So we were curious to see how this barely year-old sea bottom would provide living creatures for our beach seine. Dan Penttila, the forage fish expert, had assured us there would be fish.

We tried something new in the world of advertising: we relied entirely on public service announcements, event postings online and in the newspapers and the flyer to the school kids. We also sent an announcement to the Children's Museum in Mount Vernon. We placed no paid advertising except the banner over Commercial Avenue.

What would we do without our WSU Beach Watcher volunteers? They signed up, they showed up on time, they stayed for the whole event AND they stayed to clean up even though there wasn't really a written clean-up schedule. Sheila Tomas' husband, Steve, is the hero of the day for mopping the floors in the Seafarers' building.

The only unexpected excitement came when the oven in the ESD building set off the fire alarm. Not our fault, but it did create quite a diversion in the middle of the event. The kids enjoyed the fire engine and thought it was part of the entertainment.

Rosie Cayou and her family provide the crowd with a delicious traditional salmon luncheon plate and the usual good cheer.



Once again, Paul Dinnel and his wife, Vicki McNeil, were the driving force behind the food, creating seafood treats for all comers. Three local restaurants contributed their time, ingredients and talent to provide us with matchless chowders. A new business in town, Mad Hatter's Ice Cream, brought a lot of joy to the building with cones of many colors. Dedicated Beach Watcher Lin Folsom oversaw the all the food and most importantly, the County food permit.

Here is a summary of the supplies we used:  
We printed 100 permit applications for the children and had 11 left.  
We brought 1000 chowder sample cups, and used about 375.  
We printed 100 smoked salmon lunch tickets and used 36. This is down from our high of 60 in the past.  
We printed 100 soda pop tickets and used 16.  
We served all 50 lbs. of the clams and all 20 dozen of the frozen oysters from Taylor Shellfish Farms.

This year we tried to get the folks on the welcome table to ask for zip codes. Because people come into the site from every direction, it is impossible to get an answer from every attendee. What we did get is a sample large enough to be significant, about a third of our estimated crowd of about 275. It seemed like most of the children were under about ten years old, perhaps suggesting that our message reached the tiny ones better than their older siblings. Then, too, we are always competing with fall soccer events.

As usual, most of our crowd came from Fidalgo and Guemes Islands. Next came Mount Vernon in a nice uptick from last year at about 16% of the total, then Bellingham.

The list of volunteers at the end of this report does not really do justice to their dedication, good will, flexibility and determination to produce an excellent event. This event would not be possible without funding from the Skagit Marine Resources Committee and it would not be possible without our volunteers and sponsors. A big thank you to all.







Photo: Erica Pickett

The City's banner across Highway 20 advertises our event for the week prior to our Saturday. At \$175, it is a lot of advertising per dollar.



Photo: Erica Pickett

A happy crowd in the Seafarers' Memorial Park building enjoys chowder samples from three local restaurants: Randy's Pier 61, Mary Ann's Kitchen and the Adrift Restaurant



Photo: Erica Pickett

Denise Crowe (left) and Anna-Mai Christmas (right) show off the many creatures living in one of the tanks brought to the event by Shannon Point Marine Center.



Photo: Erica Pickett

The video macroscope was a popular spot. This year it was tended by Americorps workers from Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.





Photo: Erica Pickett

Ward Krkoska tells a visitor about the amazing clean-up job done by shellfish at the Skagit Conservation Education Alliance display. Jamie LeBlanc minds the Anacortes Water Treatment plant display in the background.

The “dog poop toss” event proved to be a big hit with the kids. MarySutton Carruthers from Skagit County’s surface water quality department organized the fun with dog poop bags and “poop” made of brown socks rolled into realistic looking piles. The kids loved it.



Photo: Erica Pickett



Adam Lorio shows his kids the sea stars and sea cucumbers up close.



A first look at the business side of a sea urchin.



What would we do without Paul Dinnel and his wife, Vicki McNeil? Paul dashes back from a family vacation each year to pick up the clams and oysters from Taylor Shellfish Farms on Samish Bay then master-minds the cooking of all that shellfish.



Photo: Michele Pope



Photo: Michele Pope

Even though the day was cool and windy, we still had kids eager to play with the paddleboats in the pool. Thanks to Lyndon Greene of the Anacortes Community Maritime Center for providing the fun.





Photo: Erica Pickett

One of our stalwart Beach Watchers, Barbara Martyn-Godfrey, explains the many everyday uses of seaweed extracts to visitors.



Photo: Erica Pickett

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group decided to shelve the bracelets this year in favor of these salmon hats which proved to be hugely popular with the kids.





Photo: Erica Pickett

Kari Odden of the Skagit Marine Resources Committee keeps the notecard-making area humming.



Photo: Michele Pope

Dedicated Beach Watcher Sheila Tomas helps kids make fish prints.





Photo: Michele Poree

The fish prints are made using rubber creatures and stamp pads to cut down on the mess. Kids tend to be very enthusiastic with the stamp pads.

Beach Watcher Caroline Spehar shares just a little of her considerable knowledge about marine mammals with young and old. She is the mainstay of the display for the Marine Mammal Stranding Network and OrcaNet.

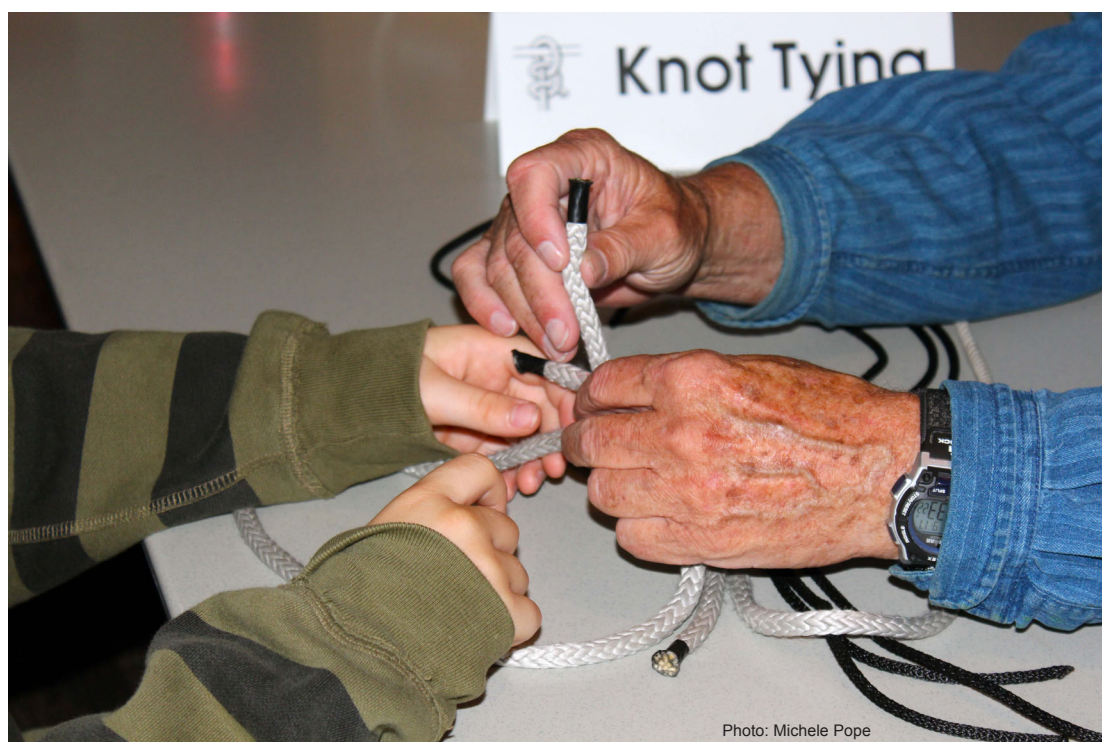


Photo: Erica Pickett





Beach Watcher Pat Steffani minds the button-making table.



The practiced hands of our knot expert, Cary Tolman, show a youngster the ways of the bowline.

This is the "environmental permit" we handed out to encourage kids to visit the different displays around the site. They received a set of undersea creature flash cards for completing the permit.

## Go to Permit Headquarters

### My Fidalgo Bay Day Pledge:

I will protect Fidalgo Bay and its surrounding environment by taking the following action(s):

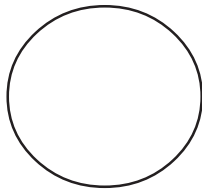
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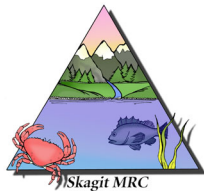
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**PERMIT APPROVED!**



**CONGRATULATIONS!**

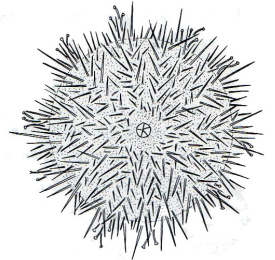
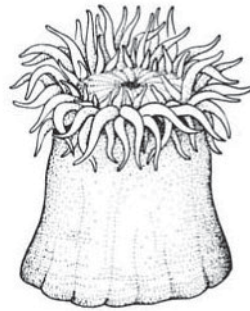
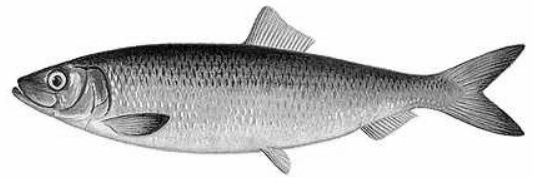
Line drawings of marine organisms from Eugene Kosloff's  
Marine Invertebrates of the Pacific Northwest



# Fidalgo Bay Day

## September 17, 2011

## Environmental Permit Application



### Directions:

Throughout your Fidalgo Bay Day journey, check in at each Permit Station.

After visiting all four stations, return to permit headquarters to complete your pledge to Fidalgo Bay and have your permit approved.

Applicant's  
name \_\_\_\_\_



# Go to Permit Station #1

## SEAWEED

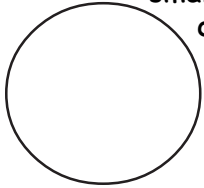
There are many species of seaweed and sea grass. You see it growing on the shoreline or floating on the water and even washed up on the beach. It is important to both humans and the creatures who live in Fidalgo Bay. Let's explore some of the reasons why.

Why is eelgrass so important to the Bay's creatures?

- a.) It provides a place for young fish to hide from other creatures who would like to have them for dinner
- b.) Some species of fish attach their eggs to it so they don't float away before they hatch
- c.) It provides a place for birds to hunt for small fish and fish eggs to eat
- d.) All of the above

Which kind of seaweed can humans eat?

Red, Green, or Brown seaweed?



# Go to Permit Station #3

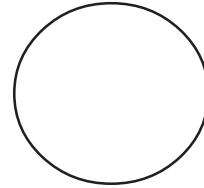
## MICROSCOPE

So much of life (plant and animal) in the ocean is very small, so small you need a microscope to see it. Researchers use microscopes a lot to study sea life. List three very special things you see here at this station.

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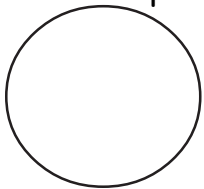


# Go to Permit Station #2

## ECOLOGY

After many years of industrial use, Fidalgo Bay was left with a lot of pollution to clean up. We are all working hard to learn about what needs to be done. See if you can find the best answer to these two questions:

- 1). What is the name of the site near the Tommy Thompson Trail that is being cleaned up right now?
  - a.) Tommy's Messy Room
  - b.) The Custom Plywood Mill Site
- 2.) What is the meaning for the third bead in the Clean-up Story Bead Bracelet?
  - a.) Figure out the best way to clean up the pollution
  - b.) Don't think about the problem of pollution



# Go to Permit Station #4

## SALMON

Salmon have been a very important fish in the Salish Sea for many thousands of years. They have been an especially important source of food for both humans and animals. Which of the following sentences do you think are true?

- a.) Salmon live in the ocean.
- b.) Salmon are born, reproduce and die in fresh water, creeks or streams.
- c.) Salmon return to the stream where they were born so they can reproduce.
- d.) Salmon return to their native stream after living at sea for 2 - 5 years.
- e.) All of the above

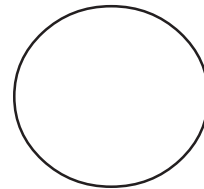




Photo: Erica Pickett

Darrell Asseln and Michael Ramey brought their skiff again this year to set the seine. We are lucky to have such expert help.



Photo: Erica Pickett

Dan Penttila, our tireless fish biologist in the gray jacket at left, explains the beach seine to the assembled before the net is hauled in.





Photo: Michele Pope

The seine comes around and is ready to pull in.



Photo: Michele Pope

Dan Penttila, left, and Kurt Buchanan at right are veterans at pulling in the seine. There was such a load of seaweed and fish in the net that this seasoned crew wondered if they had snagged a rock or a log in the seine.





photo:  
Michele Pope

The kids were fascinated with the various critters in the tubs.



photo: Michele Pope

Pricklebacks, resembling eels, were among the species of fish which were pulled in.



# Participating Volunteers

Name	Affiliation
Anna-Mai Christmas	Shannon Point Marine Center
Barbara Martyn-Godfrey	WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers
Beckie Arnold	WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers
Betty Carteret	WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers
Beverly Dresen	WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers
Boshie Morris	WSU Skagit Beach Watchers, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
Brittany Collins	Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Caroline Spehar	WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers
Cary Tolman	Anacortes Community Maritime Center
Chandler Colahan	Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Charlie Huddleston	Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Chet Bradley	WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers
Chris Brown	WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers
Darrell Asseln	Friends of Skagit Beaches
Dan Penttila	Salish Sea Biological
Denise Crowe	Shannon Point Marine Center
Dennis McMillan	WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers
Eric Shen	WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers
Erica Pickett	Beach Watchers, APMC, MRC
Gwen Berthiez	WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers
Jan Hersey	WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers
Kari Odden	Skagit Marine Resources Committee/ Skagit Land Trust
Ken Gard	WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers
Kurt Buchanan	MRC & WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers
Lin Folsom	WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers
Linda Sanford	WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers
Lucy DeGrace	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
Lyndon Greene	Anacortes Community Maritime Center
Lynn Karns	WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers
Michael Ramey	Dedicated volunteer
Michele Pope, Photographer	WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers
Mike Mohundro	WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers
Monte Richardson	Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Nihla Bradley	WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers
Pat Steffani	WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers, APMC
Pattie Hutchins	WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers
Paul Dinnel	Skagit Marine Resources Committee/Shannon Point Marine Center
Raffi Manion	WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers
Ruth Peterson	WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers
Sheila Tomas	WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers
Steve Tomas	Dedicated volunteer
Sue Ehler	WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers
Sue Mitchel-Runow	WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers
Susan Wood	Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Tammie Ennen	WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers
Tom Richards	WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers
Tristen Wuori	Shannon Point Marine Center
Vicki McNeil	Anacortes Community Maritime Center

Photo: Erica Pickett



# Participating Organizations

Anacortes Community Maritime Center

Anacortes Yacht Club

Anacortes Community and Youth Arts

Cayou Family Catering

Café Adrift

City of Anacortes

City of Anacortes Water Department

Gere-A-Deli

Mad Hatter Ice Cream

Mary Ann's Kitchen

Northwest Marine Mammal Stranding Network

OrcaNet

Padilla National Estuarine Research Reserve

Port of Anacortes

Randy's Pier 61

Samish Indian Nation

Shannon Point Marine Center

Shore Stewards

Skagit Conservation Education Alliance

Skagit County Public Works/ Water Quality Division

Skagit County Marine Resources Committee

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group

Skagit Land Trust

Taylor Shellfish Farms

WSU Extension Skagit Beach Watchers

Photo by Erica Pickett