



Salish Sea Stewards - 2025 Training Schedule

Each session will meet at the training room at the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (10441 Bayview Edison Rd, Mount Vernon, WA 98273) from 1 pm – 5 pm on Tuesdays from February 18th to April 29th. You will need a Discover Pass.

Please email your questions to salishseastewards@gmail.com.

Training 1– February 18, 2025

Time: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Theme: Welcome

Location: Padilla Bay (classroom)

Speakers:

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

Training 2– February 25, 2025

Time: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Theme: Padilla Bay

Location: Padilla Bay (classroom)

Speakers:

- Introduction to the Northwest Straits Commission - Lucas Hart, Northwest Straits Commission
- Salish Sea Stewards Goals Activity- Erin Merklein, Padilla Bay NERR
- Beach Dynamics and Area Geology - Scott Petersen, Geologist
- Eelgrass and Estuaries- Sylvia Yang, Padilla Bay NERR

Training 3– March 4, 2025

Time: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Theme: Intertidal

Location: Deception Pass State Park (beach/bring a Discover Pass) and Padilla Bay Classroom

- Beach Naturalist Program- Joy Kacorowski, Deception Pass State Park

- Tide Pool Exploration at Deception Pass State Park– Padilla Bay Staff, Deception Pass State Park Staff, Salish Sea Stewards Alumni
- Volunteering at Padilla Bay’s Aquarium and Touch Tank – Erin Merklein, Padilla Bay NERR

Training 4– March 11, 2025

Time: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Theme: Water Quality and Monitoring

Location: Padilla Bay (classroom)

Speakers:

- Water Quality and Water Pollution - Karen DuBose, Skagit County
- MyCoast App and Creosote Pilings – Hannah Williams, Washington WA Department of Natural Resources
- Anacortes Stormwater Management Project - Tim Gohrke, Friends of Skagit Beaches
- Beach Program 101 – Heather Gibbs, Washington Department of Ecology
- Stream Team- Cindy Pierce and Annie England, Skagit Conservation District

Training 5– March 18, 2025

Time: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Theme: European Green Crab

Location: Padilla Bay (classroom and mudflat)

- Introduction to Skagit Land Trust- Stacy Dahl, Skagit Land Trust
- European Green Crab with WA Sea Grant- Emily Grayson and Lisa Watkins, WA Sea Grant
- European Green Crab with NW Straits Commission– Allie Simpson and Leah Skare, Northwest Straits Commission
- Batillaria Overview and European Green Crab- Angelica Lucchetto, Padilla Bay NERR

Training 6– March 25, 2025

Time: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Theme: Birds and Mammals

Location: Padilla Bay (classroom)

Speakers:

- Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST)- Jackie Lindsey, COASST / University of Washington
- Pigeon Guillemot Breeding Surveys – Shannon Boldt, Salish Sea Guillemot Network
- Bird Surveys at Padilla Bay – Angelica Lucchetto, Padilla Bay NERR
- Local Marine Mammals – Cindy Elliser, Pacific Mammal Research

Training 7– April 1, 2025

Time: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Theme: Kelp and Plankton

Location: Padilla Bay (classroom)

Speakers:

- Kelp of the Salish Sea – Jessi Florendo, Puget Sound Restoration Fund
- Kelp Monitoring – Jeff Whitty, Northwest Straits Commission

- Mid Training Check In/ Reflection- Erin Merklein
- Skagit Bull Kelp Kayak Team – Lynne Wenberg, Salish Sea Stewards
- Plankton and Volgistics – Chandler Colahan, Padilla Bay NERR

Training 8– April 8, 2025

Time: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Theme: Fish and Bivalves

Location: Padilla Bay (classroom)

Speakers:

- Forage Fish of the Salish Sea – Phill Dionne, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Forage Fish in the Field – Pete Haase, Salish Sea Steward
- Native Oyster Restoration- Paul Dinnel, Skagit MRC
- Tribal Treaty Fishing Rights and Shellfish – Julie Barber, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

Training 9– April 15, 2025

Time: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Theme: Human Impacts

Location: Padilla Bay (classroom) and March's Point (beach)

Speakers:

- Ocean Acidification- Brooke Love, Western Washington University
- Derelict Fishing Gear – Jason Morgan, NW Straits Foundation
- Plastics Monitoring - Hillary Burgess and Jessica Myers, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Training 10– April 22, 2025

Time: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Theme: Restoration and Monitoring

Location: Bowman Bay (beach/bring a Discover Pass) and Padilla Bay (classroom)

- Bowman Bay Restoration and Intertidal Monitoring- Lisa Kaufman and Jason Morgan, Northwest Straits Foundation
- Upland Restoration at Padilla Bay - Cory Gardner, Padilla Bay NERR
- Aquatic Reserves Program and Intertidal Monitoring – Zoe Fry, RE Sources Americorps member

Training 11– April 29, 2025

Time: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Theme: Communication and Celebration

Location: Padilla Bay (classroom)

Speakers:

- Washington Salmon- TBD
- One Year as a Salish Sea Stewards- Salish Sea Steward Alumni
- Congratulations from the Salish Sea Stewards Advisory Committee - Salish Sea Stewards Advisory Committee
- Certificates and Celebrate- Salish Sea Stewards Advisory Committee
- Celebratory Mudflat Safari!