

COUNTY: Skagit

Grant Number: SEANWS-2023-skCoPW-00003

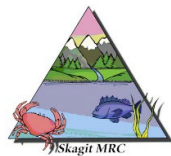
PROJECT TITLE: Northwest Straits Project: Skagit Marine Resources Committee Operations

DELIVERABLE TASK NUMBER: TASK 2.2 – 2024 Final Fialgo Bay Day Report-Revised

PERIOD COVERED: July 1, 2024 – Sept 30, 2024

DATE SUBMITTED: 10/14/24

The attached report was prepared by Katherine Hayes for the Skagit Marine Resources Committee



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 2024

Sponsored by:

**Skagit County Marine Resources Committee**

With support of the  
**Samish Indian Nation**



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 Overview

Fidalgo Bay Day (FBD) is the Skagit County Marine Resources Committee's (SMRC) signature public outreach event, attended by hundreds of visitors each year. The focus of the annual event is to spread awareness of the marine environment and to foster environmental stewardship. FBD has taken place annually for the last 20 years (with a 2-year COVID hiatus in 2021 & 2022. SMRC held an online marine-themed scavenger hunt instead). The Samish Indian Nation has graciously hosted our event at their wonderful Fidalgo Bay Resort Clubhouse at no charge each year since its inception. The Clubhouse is located along the beautiful shores of Fidalgo Bay in the heart of Coast Salish traditional territory and is the perfect venue for FBD. The resort staff has always been very accommodating in dealing with our requests. Many 'Thanks' go to the Samish Indian Nation for their generosity.

Around 40 different organizations and businesses participate in FBD each year. Activities vary from year to year, but typically include interactive displays from many participating organizations including WWU Shannon Point Marine Center's touch tank, Deception Pass Park's gray whale skull, beach seining demonstrations, children's art and science activities focused on the Salish Sea, face painting, free shellfish and chowder samples, popcorn, and a no-host traditional Tribal salmon lunch. Both children and adults are offered Discovery Passports, which they can get stamped at activity and educational booths by answering related questions. The activity is fun and encourages families to engage with each participating organization.

Along with contributions from many community businesses and organizations, FBD is made possible thanks to hundreds of hours from the SMRC Planning Committee, Friends of Skagit Beaches, the Salish Sea Stewards, and other volunteers. Presenters with booths and hands-on activities share their love and knowledge of the marine environment with the local community. People visiting the event learn about the ecosystem functions of the plants and animals that live in Fidalgo Bay and the greater Salish Sea. They also learn about the threats to these ecosystems, and what they can do to protect them. FBD is an excellent avenue for the SMRC and other partner organizations to share their important work that might not otherwise be visible to the public. It also affords the opportunity for participating organizations to make valuable connections and build relationships with other likeminded people for a greater collective impact in protecting the Salish Sea.

**Fidalgo Bay Day is the SMRC's gift of marine environment education to the local community. The event fosters environmental stewardship and is a day of shoreline beach fun & food for all.**





## 2024 Event Summary

FBD was held **Saturday, August 24, 2024**, at the Fidalgo Bay Resort in Anacortes from 11:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. Despite the rainy weather, an estimated **300 visitors** attended this year's event, and 155 Passport Booklets were handed out. Although the attendance was slightly lower than last year, it was still a busy and lively event. There remains to be prominent interest from our local diverse community to take part in this annual educational event with free admission and a wide variety of educational activities, arts & crafts, and plenty of complimentary food.

The SMRC's goal of increasing public awareness of the marine environment and fostering environmental stewardship was more than realized. Many attendees, contributing businesses, and volunteers commented on how well loved and deeply enjoyed the event is. There is nothing else quite like it in our area.

Thanks to the **30 volunteers**, **35 participating organizations**, **31 Discovery Passport Stations**, and **5 local businesses** who offered their gifts of expertise, time, energy, and donation of materials to help make this year's event a huge success!





## Opening Ceremony

SMRC member and Director of Ecology's Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Jude Apple (pictured right), kicked off the event with a warm welcome. He announced event agenda highlights, said 'Thank Yous' to all participating organizations and volunteers, and presented the Northwest Straits Initiative's Tribal Acknowledgement. An inspirational welcoming song and words were delivered by Samish Tribal member Rosie Cayou James (pictured below). She shared a tribute to the deceased killer whale *Tokitae* who passed away one year ago on August 18th, 2023.



## Passport Stations

For the tenth year, the Skagit MRC collaborated with **Friends of Skagit Beaches** who planned and coordinated the "Discovery Passport" activity. We handed out a record number of **155 passport booklets!** Passport participants explored the **31 Passport Discovery Stations** and interacted with the organizations hosting the displays to answer the passport questions and get stamps for a prize. The activity is a fun way to engage with the public while they learn about the different organizations & issues impacting the Salish Sea and what they can do to help. Attendees completed a total of **109 passports!** Many indicated they learned something new. Each year, the passport cover is selected from one of the entries in the coloring contest from last year's event. This year, **9 youth participated in the coloring contest** to win a spot on the cover of the 2025 Discovery Passport.





## Western Washington University's Shannon Point Touch Marine Center Touch Tank

Students and their professor from WWU's Shannon Point Marine Center displayed their touch tank full of saltwater invertebrates and seaweeds to the delight and education of young and old.



Images courtesy of Cameron Martinez with Anacortes American

## Deception Park Foundation & Deception State Park Gray Whale Skull

Two Washington State Park Rangers accompanied the WA Parks display this year and educated people about gray whales and what park rangers do.





## Beach Seining Demonstration

This year, the highly popular beach seining demonstration was a collaborative effort led by Northwest Straits Foundation's Jason Morgan and his crew (Don Coleman, Hal Lee, Pattie Hutchins, and Tom Richards) with the help of volunteers from the Samish Tribe (Charlie Donahue and Toby McLeod). The first sets yielded a good catch with many fish for visitors to help identify. Some visitors looked for birds on the bay, shells on the beach and others just enjoyed the celebration!





## Interactive Educational Displays

Interactive educational displays from **35 different organizations** were located both outside and inside the clubhouse, and 31 of those were also Discovery Passport Stations. The interactive displays offered educational activities that focused on water quality, marine birds, orcas and other whales, watershed functions, estuaries, salmon, forage fish, marine debris and plastics, eelgrass, derelict gear, recycling, European Green Crabs, groundwater, and more.

This year, SMRC hosted an interactive display that highlighted the beauty and importance of kelp forests in the Salish Sea. This kelp forest coloring activity included a “fort hideout” where kids could step inside and immerse themselves in a life-sized kelp forest and choose from a variety of marine critter coloring pages. It was a huge hit! An article published in the Anacortes American shared how these interactive educational displays successfully inform people about the various tasks carried out each day to protect our oceans. A full list participating groups with displays is included at the end of this report.

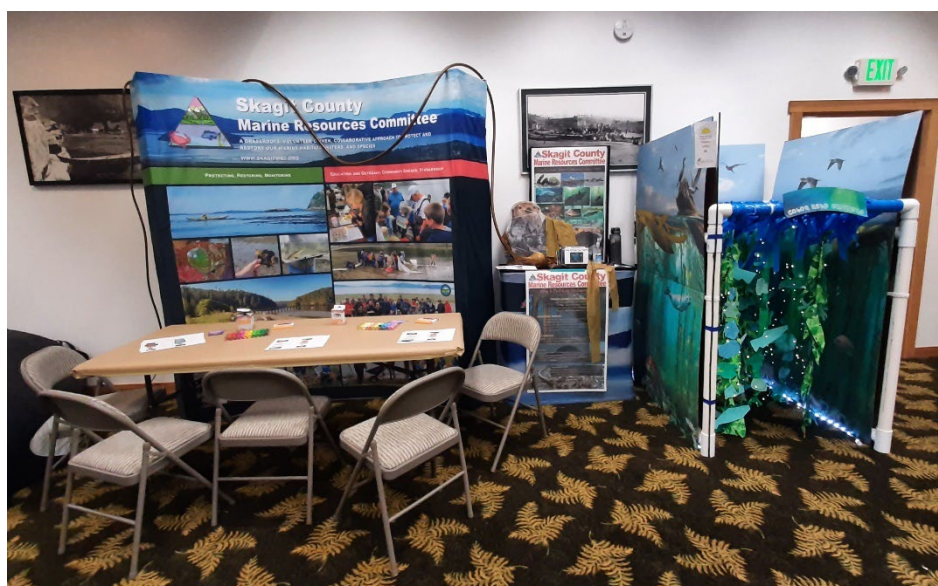


Image courtesy of Cameron Martinez with Anacortes American



### Salish Sea Themed Youth Craft Activities

2024 brought a great variety of youth/child marine arts & craft activities. There was a total of 4 activities for all to participate in: orca, salmon & crab hats, face painting, fish printing on canvas tote bags.



### Food – Chowder, Shellfish, Salmon, & More



Two Anacortes Restaurants: **Adrift** and **Bob's Chowder Bar**, participated in the famous Fidalgo Bay Day Chowder Tasting, offering free samples of some of the best clam chowder in the Pacific Northwest!

And once again, **Taylor Shellfish** generously donated hundreds of dollars' worth of delicious



shellfish. Volunteers prepared special sauces, steamed mussels, and grilled oysters to perfection. Volunteer Paul Parent and his crew grilled Taylor Shellfish oysters and mussels (with SMRC member Paul Dinnel's special secret sauce).

We also borrowed the popcorn machine from The Salish Sea School and gave away over 300 bags of popcorn.

### **Coast Salish Traditional No-Host Salmon BBQ**

Rosie Cayou James and their family offered a traditional Coast Salish luncheon. Items on the menu included salmon grilled over an open fire, Indian tacos, chili, and fresh fry bread.



Image courtesy of Cameron Martinez with Anacortes American

Each year, SMRC purchases the temporary food permits for FBD. We were pleased to learn that the Skagit Health Department regulations changed in 2023 to allow one Umbrella Food Permit to cover everything served at our event (i.e. Shellfish BBQ, the chowder tasting and Rosie Cayou James' family's traditional salmon BBQ) for a savings of \$350 in food permits.

### **Restaurant Prize Drawing**

All volunteers were given a ticket to go into a free drawing for gift certificates from local restaurants. We gave a total of **twelve (12)** gift certificates to raffle winners as a special way to say 'thank you' for volunteers' hard work and dedication. Anthony's at Cape Sante donated eight \$25 gift certificates, and Secret Cove Restaurant donated two \$50 gift certificates. Private donors provided two \$25 gift certificates for Bob's Chowder Bar. This was a very popular addition to the day for our volunteers.



## Zero Waste

This was a Zero Waste event with compostable utensils, plates, bowls, water cups, and chowder cups. Skagit Soils Inc. took compostable waste and oyster & mussel shells, free of charge, to add to their batch of soil amendments. Volunteers helped attendees to properly sort their compostables and recyclables, and helped to educate about waste streams and the ways in which we can reduce our footprint by practicing composting and recycling at home.

## Event Volunteers

This year, more than **30 volunteers** contributed **over 450 hours** of their valuable time to make sure the event was educational and fun for all. In addition, **40 organizations and businesses** contributed their time and expertise, and there were **35 excellent displays (31 were Passport Stations)**. SMRC sent 'Thank You' letters to each one of them.

- **Set up / Tear Down:** The day before the event, **three** volunteers helped set up display tables and signage. On the day of the event, volunteers arrived at 8:30AM to help set up and **five** stayed until 4:00PM to clean up. Volunteers included: Judy Jacobs, Michael Jacobs, Betsy Stevenson, Ryan Mielke, John Griffin, Cynthia Nielsen, Therese Ogle, Pat Johnson, Steven McPherson, Jazz Morgan, Joan Magee, Deborah Starr, Spencer Jurado, Katie Cobb, Jane Brandt, and Wayne Huseby.
- **Event Master of Ceremonies:** Jude Apple
- **Parking:** Rachelle Kierulff, Saul Vest, and Tom Flanagan
- **Passport Stations:** Betty Carteret, Chris Wood, Chris Apple, Diane Eiesland, & Friends of Skagit Beaches Team
- **Welcoming Table / Exhibitors Sign In:** Phyllis Bravinder, Barbara Clark, Judy Jacobs, and Michael Jacobs
- **Exhibitor Booth Organization:** Darla Gay Smith, Tracy Alker, and Kat Hayes
- **Salish Sea Themed Arts & Crafts:** Elizabeth Drozda, Sara Patton, Donna Davison, Jan Auman, Erin Merklein, Mary Kirkwood, Gail Bullock
- **Beach Seine:** Jason Morgan, Don Coleman, Hal Lee, Pattie Hutchins, Tom Richards, Charlie Donahue, and Toby McLeod
- **Shellfish BBQ (Taylor's Shellfish Oysters/Blue Mussels):** Dennis Parent, Paul Dinnel, Vicki Dinnel, Dick Kent, John Griffin, Scott Peterson, Cynthia Nielsen, and Saul Vest.
- **Photographer:** Dean Alker and Darla Gay Smith
- **Popcorn:** Kat Hayes
- **Zero Waste:** Ruth Taylor, Zoe Slabodnik, Callie Martin, Margo Gillaspy, and Craig Culmback (Skagit Soils Inc.)
- **No-Host Coast Salish Salmon BBQ:** Rosie Cayou James



## 2024 Participating Businesses and Organizations

Adrift Restaurant
Anacortes Forest Lands
Anthony's Restaurant at Cap Sante
Bob's Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon Restaurant
City of Anacortes, Stormwater Management, Water Treatment, Wastewater, Parks & Rec
DNR Aquatic Reserves Program
Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve, CSC
Fidalgo Bay Resort
Forage Fish Interpretation Station
Friends of Skagit Beaches / Salish Sea Stormwater Monitoring
Northwest Straits Commission
Orca Network
Pacific Mammal Research
Padilla Bay Foundation
Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
RE Sources for Sustainable Living – Clean Water
Rosie Cayou James Family- No Host Coast Salish Salmon BBQ
Salish Sea Stewards
Samish Indian Nation
Secret Cove Restaurant
Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
Shannon Point Marine Center, WWU
Skagit Conservation District
Skagit County, Natural Resources Division
Skagit County, Noxious Weeds
Skagit County, Public Health
Skagit County, Solid Waste Division / Zero Waste
Skagit Land Trust
Skagit Marine Resources Committee (SMRC)
Skagit Soils
State of Washington, Department of Ecology
Swinomish Department of Environmental Protection
Taylor Shellfish Farms
The Salish Sea School
Transition Fidalgo
Washington Department of Fisheries & Wildlife
Washington Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Reserves / Creosote
Washington State Parks, Deception Pass Rangers
Whale Museum
Wolf Hollow Wildlife

## Event Planning & Support

A huge 'Thanks' and appreciation to our fabulous Event Planning Committee for ensuring everything ran smoothly! The Committee was responsible for planning, promoting, and coordinating this entire event and for making sure volunteer positions were filled and that everyone stayed on task and on schedule. Event Lead: **Tracy Alker** (SMRC Coordinator); Co-Leads: **Darla Gay Smith** (SMRC member), and **Kat Hayes** (Skagit County Intern); Other Planning Team Members: Thea Roe (Samish Nation), Erin Merklein (Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve), and Anna Thomas (Skagit County Education & Outreach).

## Planning and Promotion

SMRC maintains extensive 2024 FBD planning documents and notes available upon request including: Youth Craft Activities and supplies, complete Event Timelines, current Participating Organization Contact Lists, current Volunteer Lists, Skagit Health Department Food Service regulations and Permits (and forms) required, Save the Date poster, half-sheet Promotional Postcards with location map, and suggestions for the following year.

Members of the planning committee distributed Fidalgo Bay Day flyers at special events and places of business. The event was also widely posted online and on partner websites, newsletters, and email lists. We placed ads in the 'The Clamdigger' and the 'GoSkagit 360 Calendar', and both Salish Sea Stewards Facebook pages. We contacted local reporters, and Anacortes American published a post-event article. Lastly, volunteers carried out the yearly tradition of installing a roadside banner posted on "R" Avenue in Anacortes for all to see coming into town.



## Event Contributions

In addition to Skagit MRC grant funding, several local business and organizations helped support Fidalgo Bay by contributing in-kind services, resources, or funding including:

- Samish Indian Nation provided free use of their facility and kitchen, and contributed an in-kind donation of tablecloths for chowder tables, drop cloths for craft tables, popcorn, a 10-gallon water cooler drink dispenser, and 5 bags of ice
- Friends of Skagit Beaches provided the Discovery Passport Activity and prizes
- Adrift & Bob's Chowder Bar provided complimentary chowder
- Anthony's at Cape Sante donated eight \$25 gift certificates, Secret Cove Restaurant donated two \$50 gift certificates, and one private doner provided an additional two \$25 gift certificates for Bob's Chowder Bar for the free raffle for volunteers
- Taylor Shellfish provided complimentary shellfish (oysters & blue mussels) with an



approximate value of \$285

- The Salish Sea School loaned the popcorn machine
- The Northwest Straits Foundation provided two water cooler drink dispensers and staff expertise and coordination for the beach seining demonstration
- Volunteers gave over 450 hours of their time

## Lessons Learned

- **Event Planning:** In 2024, we did not have a lead volunteer to plan and coordinate the event like in past years. This task fell on the SMRC Coordinator with very limited capacity to coordinate this event efficiently. We also had a much smaller event planning team to help coordinate and carry out tasks. More volunteer help is needed in planning this event so the whole thing doesn't all fall on two or three people. We might need to look into paying a professional to plan and coordinate this event in future years.
- **Volunteer Recruitment:** Overall, we had fewer volunteers to orchestrate the event compared to previous years. We had about 30 volunteers helping this year compared to over 60 in previous years. Volunteer recruitment methods were similar to past years but occurred a little later in the season. Next year we aim to begin recruitment earlier and will strategize different methods to improve volunteer participation and involvement.
- **Event Parking:** A more comprehensive Parking Management Plan, complete with a map of the facility, parking instructions/signs/locations, and general guidelines to aid in traffic flow would be helpful for the volunteers assisting with this task.
- **Event Agenda/Signage:** It would be helpful to have printed event schedules and facility map/layout at the welcome table. Copies should also be provided to participating organizations. A large copy of the agenda and facility layout should be posted near the entry way.
- **Zero Waste:** There were many lessons learned about the Zero Waste Program this year.
  - It would be good to have **one** volunteer stationed at every recycling/trash/compost receptacle. This will help improve the educational element (helping attendees learn more about composting and how to properly recycle), as well as reduce the amount of refuse being sorted incorrectly and consequently landing in the inappropriate receptacles.
  - 30-gallon compostable yard waste bags should be used as the primary method to contain compostable waste. These paper bags are compostable and the perfect size. In addition to having these located in the main eating area, they should also be in the kitchen for prep-work scraps, as well as at any food vendor site where food is being served. It is important to remember that food vendors will need to be provided with compostable plates and silverware before the start of the event and instructed to only serve food with these materials provided to help keep Fidalgo Bay Day a Zero Waste Event.
- **Event MC:** Appointing an MC to kick off the event and make important announcements throughout the event was a detail that was not addressed until last-minute. A portable microphone is also needed so that the announcements can be heard by all. It is important to inform attendees of the following: Northwest Straits Initiative's Tribal Land Acknowledgement, welcoming song and words from the Samish, event agenda, Zero Waste Event (all waste generated from this event is compostable), winners for the volunteer raffle, and other important announcements pertaining to parking, the flow of traffic, and attendee safety.
- **Welcome Table:** Meetings with Welcome Table volunteers need to be conducted prior

to the day of the event. It is very important that the Welcome Table volunteers are well informed, involved in planning leading up to FBD, and are aware of important information pertaining to the event.

- **Popcorn Machine:** The popcorn machine is best operated near the entrance across from the Welcome Table with ample airflow to avoid setting off the smoke alarm or tripping the breaker in the room with the chowders.
- **Coffee/Refreshments for Volunteers:** Because we were short staffed this year, we did not have enough help to get coffee or refreshments available for the volunteers setting up the event. Volunteers were very disappointed we did not have coffee or donuts this year.
- **Kids Crafts and Face Painting:** Kids craft tables need to be staffed with lots of volunteers. It was difficult to find enough volunteers willing to help, especially with face painting. It would be ideal to find an organization willing to sponsor or host a craft table activity. Planning for this needs to begin early! Good to have no more than 3 easy craft activities and purchase supplies way ahead of time. Crafts should be easy and fast to assemble. Parents and kids get antsy if the crafts take up too much time. Craft tables also take up a lot of event space which is why limiting it to no more than 3 activities is wise. Craft activities that are difficult for kids to assemble on their own, like crab and orca hats, should be cut and assembled ahead of time. Only the hat band would need to be stabled according to each kid's head size, at the event. Need a good stapler for this with lots of extra staples.
- **Passport Stations:** 31 Passport Stations is the maximum number we can handle. Will have to limit to the first 31 organizations that register.
- **Banners/Signage:** Hanging the large blue Fidalgo Bay Day event banner at the building entrance was very effective and a great photo opportunity. Also good to have the white Fidalgo Bay Day banner and tablecloth on the welcome table.
- **Event Photographer:** Good to have a dedicated event photographer with clear instructions on how to get permission to take photos of kids and what types of photos we would like to have for our reports, event promo, websites, etc. And a dedicated drive to upload the photos to.
- **Weather:** Be prepared for adverse weather. Have a back-up plan for activities that may get cancelled due to inclement weather, and space inside for extra outreach tables if needed.
- **Planning Documentation:** Consistently adjust and update event planning documentation with contacts, methods, task descriptions and assignments, timelines, supply lists, budget items, etc. to provide good guidelines accessible to the Planning Committee members and event volunteers.

## Next Steps

- Begin setting the date for Fidalgo Bay Day **2025**.
- Date will need to fall on a day where the tides are good for beach seining and the key leads for the beach seining and WWW Shannon Point Marine Center touch tank are available to participate: Touch Tank- **WWU Shannon Point Marine Center** (Dr. Derek Smith, Laboratory Manager & Research Assistant Professor). Beach Seining- **Northwest Straits Foundation** (Jason Morgan, Marine Projects Manager), and **Samish Indian Nation** (Matt Castle, Natural Resources Manager).
- Reserve the facility. Finalize the reservations for **Fidalgo Bay Resort** upon confirming a date with the organizations listed above.
- Create and send out Save-the-Date cards! Outreach events, like Storming the Sound



and Mount Vernon High School Science Night are great opportunities to get the word out early.

- Formulate teams of volunteer and Planning Committee members who will be orchestrating Fidalgo Bay Day 2025. The Salish Sea Stewards training in February-April would be a good place to recruit new volunteers.
- Identify leaders for groups of volunteers who will be assisting with various key tasks relating to organization, preparation, event activities, and set-up/clean-up.
- Contact Friends of Skagit Beaches (Betty Carteret and Chris Wood) for help curating the Discovery Passport and Passport Stations.
- Review budget and supply inventory. Order supplies.
- Create and promote event advertisements: online advertisements, Save-the-Date postcards, and flyers in business windows.

## Quotes from Attendees and Participants

- “We always enjoy Fidalgo Bay Days so much and look forward to it every year...count us in for next year and we’re looking forward to hearing the theme.” -Erica Bleke, DNR Aquatic Reserves
- “We had so much fun at Fidalgo Bay Day and will absolutely be doing it again (as a passport station too!).” -Kendra McConnell, Friends of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands
- “I thought the event was great! I enjoyed having our table there and chatting to people (especially the kiddos checking out our watershed model!).” -Brigid Wills, Americorps Aquatic Reserves
- “I am very happy to do whatever little thing I can to help that small but mighty event. Thank you for all your efforts that helped make it a success. Happy to help next year.” - Saul Vest, FBD Volunteer

## Acknowledgements

It takes a village, or many tide pools coming together to make Fidalgo Bay Day occur each year, as it has since 2004. FBD is truly a team effort! It wouldn't happen without our amazing volunteers, partner organizations and businesses. The SMRC wholeheartedly thanks all for their involvement and gifts of expertise, time, energy, and unwavering, generous support that contributed to the event's success. Their efforts have made Skagit County more aware of the resources residing in our precious Salish Sea & the challenges faced.





# Fidalgo Bay Day

Saturday, August 24, 2024

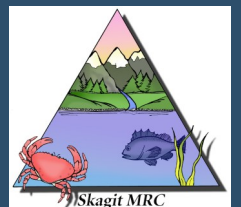


## 20th Anniversary Celebration!

With Skagit Marine Resources Committee & Friends

- 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](http://www.skagitmrc.org)





**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Fidalgo Bay Day**

*20th Anniversary Celebration!*

**Saturday, August 24, 2024**

**11:00am - 3:00pm**

Fidalgo Bay Resort

4701 Fidalgo Bay Rd. Anacortes



[www.skagitmrc.org](http://www.skagitmrc.org)



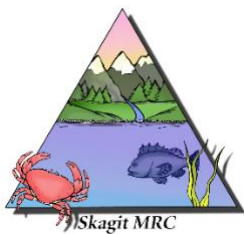


# FIDALGO BAY DAY

## 2024 Discovery Passport



Thanks to these sponsoring organizations for making this event possible.



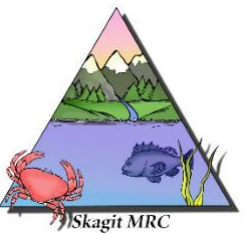
Artwork by Xander P.

# FIDALGO BAY DAY

## 2024 Discovery Passport



Thanks to these sponsoring organizations for making this event possible.



Artwork by Xander P.

## Today's Activities

### Outside

- Event kickoff at 11:00 am with a Samish welcome
- Visit passport stations
- Visit Corra the mermaid-selkie on the beach
- Beach Seining 2:00 pm at the boat ramp
- **Traditional Coast Salish Salmon Lunch**  
Purchase on east side of building

### Inside the Clubhouse & On Patio

- Visit passport stations
- Interactive educational displays
- Arts & Crafts activities
- Sample seafood and chowder



## Today's Activities

### Outside

- Event kickoff at 11:00 am with a Samish welcome
- Visit passport stations
- Visit Corra the mermaid-selkie on the beach
- Beach Seining 2:00 pm at the boat ramp
- **Traditional Coast Salish Salmon Lunch**  
Purchase on east side of building

### Inside the Clubhouse & On Patio

- Visit passport stations
- Interactive educational displays
- Arts & Crafts activities
- Sample seafood and chowder



Station 31

### City of Anacortes Planning Department Stormwater & Water Treatment

Children: How does conserving water help keep pollutants out of the marine environment?

- A) Conserving water does not keep pollutants out of the marine environment
- B) We don't need to keep pollutants out of the marine environment
- C) Using less water means less runoff and wastewater that can carry pollutants into the ocean

Adults: How does conserving water help keep pollutants out of the marine environment?



Station 31

### City of Anacortes Planning Department Stormwater & Water Treatment

Children: How does conserving water help keep pollutants out of the marine environment?

- A) Conserving water does not keep pollutants out of the marine environment
- B) We don't need to keep pollutants out of the marine environment
- C) Using less water means less runoff and wastewater that can carry pollutants into the ocean

Adults: How does conserving water help keep pollutants out of the marine environment?





## Station 30

### DNR - Aquatic Reserves Puget SoundCorps

Children: How do forage fish use the habitat in Fidalgo Bay?

Adults: Where do sand lance spawn and what is one way to protect or restore that habitat?



## Station 30

### DNR - Aquatic Reserves Puget SoundCorps

Children: How do forage fish use the habitat in Fidalgo Bay?

Adults: Where do sand lance spawn and what is one way to protect or restore that habitat?



## 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 12 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 12 stickers, show your passport at Station #1 by 3:00 pm and pick up your prize!

Have Fun!





Improving Skagit beaches and marine waters through  
Education | Citizens Science | Stewardship

Help us reduce our biggest category of  
water pollution: **pollution carried in stormwater.**

Help lower the risk for salmon extinction.

Join our team of like-minded volunteers  
monitoring city stormwater and survey once a  
month with scientific instruments.

Discover pollution so we can share data and  
get the problem corrected.

Contact us at [volunteer@skagitbeaches.org](mailto:volunteer@skagitbeaches.org)



Improving Skagit beaches and marine waters through  
Education | Citizens Science | Stewardship

Help us reduce our biggest category of  
water pollution: **pollution carried in stormwater.**

Help lower the risk for salmon extinction.

Join our team of like-minded volunteers  
monitoring city stormwater and survey once a  
month with scientific instruments.

Discover pollution so we can share data and  
get the problem corrected.

Contact us at [volunteer@skagitbeaches.org](mailto:volunteer@skagitbeaches.org)



Station 29

## WA Department of Fish and Wildlife

Children: What kind of animal does the skull on the  
table belong to?

Adults: What is one difference between Southern  
Resident and Transient (Biggs) killer whales?



Washington Department of  
**FISH & WILDLIFE**

Station 29

## WA Department of Fish and Wildlife

Children: What kind of animal does the skull on the  
table belong to?

Adults: What is one difference between Southern  
Resident and Transient (Biggs) killer whales?



Washington Department of  
**FISH & WILDLIFE**



Station 28

### Skagit County Noxious Weeds

Children: What can you do to stop the spread of invasive plants like spartina?

Adults: What can you do to stop the spread of invasive plants like spartina?



Station 28

### Skagit County Noxious Weeds

Children: What can you do to stop the spread of invasive plants like spartina?

Adults: What can you do to stop the spread of invasive plants like spartina?



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 learn today!

The winning entry will appear on the cover of the 2025 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 learn today!

The winning entry will appear on the cover of the 2025 Discovery Passport.



Station 2

**Salish Sea Stormwater Monitoring Project**

Children: What happens to the water that runs off our streets and sidewalks when it rains?

Adults: Name three things that contribute negatively to stormwater runoff?



Station 2

**Salish Sea Stormwater Monitoring Project**

Children: What happens to the water that runs off our streets and sidewalks when it rains?

Adults: Name three things that contribute negatively to stormwater runoff?



**Station 27**

**Transition Fidalgo**

Children: Climate change is making the earth:

- A) cool-down
- B) spin faster
- C) warm up

Adults: When talking about climate change, what does "the greenhouse effect" mean?



Station 27

**Transition Fidalgo**

Children: Climate change is making the earth:

- A) cool-down
- B) spin faster
- C) warm up

Adults: When talking about climate change, what does "the greenhouse effect" mean?





Station 26

**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 26

**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 3

**ReSources for Sustainable Living  
Clean Water**

Children: What is one way that pollution gets into waterways, and where does it come from?  
AND What is one way we can protect Fidalgo Bay from pollution?

Adults: What toxic chemical found on car tires is lethal to coho salmon?  
AND What is one benefit of natural shorelines?  
AND What is one element of growth management planning that matters to you?



Station 3

**ReSources for Sustainable Living  
Clean Water**

Children: What is one way that pollution gets into waterways, and where does it come from?  
AND What is one way we can protect Fidalgo Bay from pollution?

Adults: What toxic chemical found on car tires is lethal to coho salmon?  
AND What is one benefit of natural shorelines?  
AND What is one element of growth management planning that matters to you?



Station 4

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

Children: What is one kind of marine debris?

Adults: What tool can you use to report large marine debris and defuse creosote treated wood?



Station 4

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

Children: What is one kind of marine debris?

Adults: What tool can you use to report large marine debris and defuse creosote treated wood?

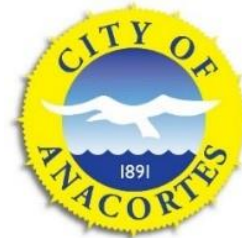


Station 25

**City of Anacortes  
Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Children: When you flush your toilet in Anacortes, where does that water go?

Adults: What is the location of the Anacortes sewer outfall, and the location of at least one other outfall in Skagit County.



Station 25

**City of Anacortes  
Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Children: When you flush your toilet in Anacortes, where does that water go?

Adults: What is the location of the Anacortes sewer outfall, and the location of at least one other outfall in Skagit County.





Station 24

### Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group

Children: Play our salmon Jenga game to find out your question!

Adults: Play our salmon Jenga game to find out your question!



Station 24

### Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group

Children: Play our salmon Jenga game to find out your question!

Adults: Play our salmon Jenga game to find out your question!



Station 5

### Deception Pass State Park

Children: How long is a gray whale's migration?

Adults: What were gray whales nicknamed in the early 1900s?



Station 5

### Deception Pass State Park

Children: How long is a gray whale's migration?

Adults: What were gray whales nicknamed in the early 1900s?



Station 6

**Wolf Hollow Wildlife  
Rehabilitation Center**

Children:

1. What do shorebirds with long, thin beaks eat?
2. Which bird does not have a long, thin beak?
  - A) Sandpiper
  - B) Surf Scoter
  - C) Oystercatcher

Adults: What is the purpose of the grooves in a Gull's beak?



Station 6

**Wolf Hollow Wildlife  
Rehabilitation Center**

Children:

1. What do shorebirds with long, thin beaks eat?
2. Which bird does not have a long, thin beak?
  - A) Sandpiper
  - B) Surf Scoter
  - C) Oystercatcher

Adults: What is the purpose of the grooves in a Gull's beak?



Station 23

**Swinomish Department of  
Environmental Protection**

Children: How many species of salmon live in the Skagit River?

Adults: Name all 5 species of salmon you can find in the Skagit River.



Station 23

**Swinomish Department of  
Environmental Protection**

Child Question: How many species of salmon live in the Skagit River?

Adult Question: Name all 5 species of salmon you can find in the Skagit River.





Station 22

**Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve**

Children: What type of water is in an estuary?  
How deep is Padilla Bay?

Adults: How deep is Padilla Bay?



Station 7

**Pacific Mammal Research**

Children: What marking is used to identify individual harbor seals?

Adults: Harbor porpoises sometimes eat large fish, like salmon. True or False?



Station 22

**Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve**

Children: What type of water is in an estuary?  
How deep is Padilla Bay?

Adults: How deep is Padilla Bay?



Station 7

**Pacific Mammal Research**

Children: What marking is used to identify individual harbor seals?

Adults: Harbor porpoises sometimes eat large fish, like salmon. True or False?



Station 8

**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? This number is different from any other crab you might see in our area.

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



Station 8

**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? This number is different from any other crab you might see in our area.

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



Station 21

**Skagit County Natural Resources Division**

Children: What are three things that should NOT go down the toilet?

Adults: What are the three things that CAN safely go down the toilet if you have a septic system?



Station 21

**Skagit County Natural Resources Division**

Children: What are three things that should NOT go down the toilet?

Adults: What are the three things that CAN safely go down the toilet if you have a septic system?



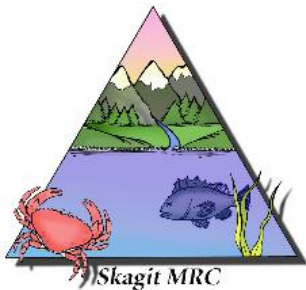


Station 20

**Skagit Marine Resources Committee**

Children: Sea otters will wrap themselves up in kelp while taking a nap, so they won't float away.  
True or False?

Adults: Name three reasons why we should protect kelp.

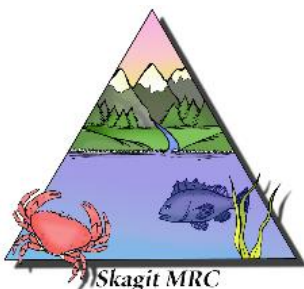


Station 20

**Skagit Marine Resources Committee  
& Northwest Straits Commission**

Children: Sea otters will wrap themselves up in kelp while taking a nap, so they won't float away.  
True or False?

Adults: Name three reasons why we should protect kelp.



Station 9

**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 9

**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 County Solid Waste Division**

Children: There are certain materials that can be recycled, and other materials that cannot be recycled. Name two things that *can* be recycled and name two things that *cannot* be recycled.

Adults: What are three things you must do to properly prepare your recyclables for recycling?



Station 10

**Skagit County Solid Waste Division**

Children: There are certain materials that can be recycled, and other materials that cannot be recycled. Name two things that *can* be recycled and name two things that *cannot* be recycled.

Adults: What are three things you must do to properly prepare your recyclables for recycling?



Station 19

**Skagit Conservation District**

Children: What does everything need in order to live?

Adults: Why is habitat important?



Station 19

**Skagit Conservation District**

Children: What does everything need in order to live?

Adults: Why is habitat important?





Station 18

**Orca Network**

Children: Name a species of baleen whale we can see in the Salish sea.

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



Station 11

**Forage Fish Interpretation Station**

Children: What are forage fish?

- A) Small fish
- B) Silver fish
- C) Schooling fish
- D) All of the above

Adults: A healthy beach for surf smelt requires what?

- A) A substrate of sand and small pebbles
- B) A wrack line or high tide line
- C) Shade from trees, seaweed and driftwood.
- D) All of the above



Station 18

**Orca Network**

Children: Name a species of baleen whale we can see in the Salish sea.

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



Station 11

**Forage Fish Interpretation Station**

Children: What are forage fish?

- A) Small fish
- B) Silver fish
- C) Schooling fish
- D) All of the above

Adults: A healthy beach for surf smelt requires what?

- A) A substrate of sand and small pebbles
- B) A wrack line or high tide line
- C) Shade from trees, seaweed and driftwood.
- D) All of the above



Station 12

**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 12

**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 17

**Corra the Selkie  
(on the beach)**

Children: What is a seal's favorite food?

Adults: What type of seals are in the Salish Sea area?



Station 17

**Corra the Selkie  
(on the beach)**

Children: What is a seal's favorite food?

Adults: What type of seals are in the Salish Sea area?



Station 16

**The Whale Museum**

Children: What do Southern Resident killer whales really like to eat?

Adults: How far do boaters/kayakers have to stay away from Southern Resident killer whales?



Station 16

**The Whale Museum**

Children: What do Southern Resident killer whales really like to eat?

Adults: How far do boaters/kayakers have to stay away from Southern Resident killer whales?



Station 13

**City of Anacortes - Parks & Recreation  
Fidalgo Bay Trestle Project**

Children: The Thompson Trail stretches from downtown Anacortes to Marchs Point. How long is it?

- A) 10 miles
- B) 3.3 miles
- C) 1.1 miles

Adults: The City of Anacortes has how many miles of shoreline?

- A) 20.2
- B) 9.5
- C) 7.2



Station 13

**City of Anacortes - Parks & Recreation  
Fidalgo Bay Trestle Project**

Children: The Thompson Trail stretches from downtown Anacortes to Marchs Point. How long is it?

- A) 10 miles
- B) 3.3 miles
- C) 1.1 miles

Adults: The City of Anacortes has how many miles of shoreline?

- A) 20.2
- B) 9.5
- C) 7.2





Station 14

**WWU Shannon Point Marine Center**

Children: If you were any of these Salish Sea life forms, what would you be and what would you want in your habitat?

Adults: If your child/grandchild/friend were their selected Salish Sea life form, what would you make sure they have in their habitat?



Station 14

**WWU Shannon Point Marine Center**

Children: If you were any of these Salish Sea life forms, what would you be and what would you want in your habitat?

Adults: If your child/grandchild/friend were their selected Salish Sea life form, what would you make sure they have in their habitat?



Station 15

**Skagit County Health Department**

Children: How long do septic systems typically last?

- A) 10 years
- B) 15 years
- C) 25 years
- D) 40 years

Adults: To ensure septic systems are functioning properly, treating sewage adequately, and last for as long as possible, how often are they required to be inspected?

- A) Every year
- B) Every 3 years
- C) Every 5 years
- D) Every 10 years



Station 15

**Skagit County Health Department**

Children: How long do septic systems typically last?

- A) 10 years
- B) 15 years
- C) 25 years
- D) 40 years

Adults: To ensure septic systems are functioning properly, treating sewage adequately, and last for as long as possible, how often are they required to be inspected?

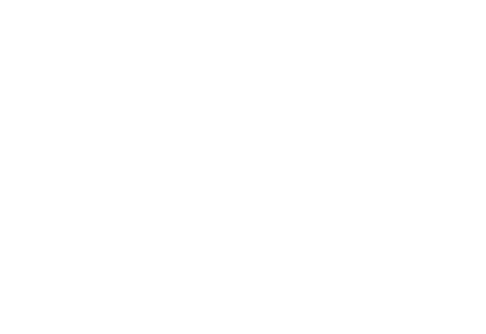
- A) Every year
- B) Every 3 years
- C) Every 5 years
- D) Every 10 years



# 20th annual Fidalgo Bay Day makes big splash

CAMERON MARTINEZ @goanacortes  
Aug 28, 2024

4 of 8



Raindrops pattered as a growing crowd gathered under Fidalgo Bay Resort's event venue roof on Saturday, listening to the organizers' speeches in anticipation of the start of the 20th Fidalgo Bay Day.

Hosted by the Skagit County Marine Resources Committee, the annual event is a family-friendly day dedicated to educating people about marine life and ways to protect it.

"Today we are all family," said Rosie Cayou James, an elder of the Samish Indian Nation, to the crowd. "Every year we have a larger family. I like to talk about the social and emotional skills of everything amongst us, including from the tiniest little sandling, the little tiny crab all the way through the orcas, social and emotional skills they have to live here."

The Samish Indian Nation owns Fidalgo Bay Resort and has been a large part of Fidalgo Bay Day since its inception.

"We honor (the Coast Salish people's) sacred spiritual connection with the land and water," said Skagit MRC member Tracy Alker. "We are extremely grateful to the Samish Nation for their generosity and their inspirational and heartfelt welcome that they've extended to the community to help kick off the event each year."

After the welcoming speech an estimated 300 people wandered between the over 30 booths and activities located both in and outside the event venue which included craft tables, games, educational exhibits, a traditional Coast Salish salmon BBQ, samples of local seafood, a beach seining demonstration and a live marine touch tank provided by the Shannon Point Marine Center.

The most popular activities, according to Alker, are the touch tanks and beach seining demonstration.

"These activities seem to resonate with most people because they get to actually see and touch real sea creatures that live in the marine waters right here in our own backyard," Alker said.

While the other booths aren't always as popular, every booth still had its own crowd of people. The majority of these booths were designed to inform people about the day-to-day tasks to protect the oceans.



"What we do every day is very practical environmentalism," said Anacortes Wastewater Treatment Plant supervisor Corrin Hamburg while demonstrating how toilet water is cleaned after being flushed. "We're cleaning up after ourselves and making sure that we're not impacting the environment when we get waste."

Event attendees were encouraged to visit the entirety of the event by The Friends of Skagit Beaches who placed Passport Discovery Stations at each booth. After receiving stamps, attendees then got to choose from a large variety of prizes ranging from puzzles to toys.

Overall, the day was seen as a success for all who were involved and there is already anticipation for next year.

"We are always looking for new ideas, partners and volunteers to help support this event," Alker said.

Those interested in getting involved in next year's Fidalgo Bay Day can email Tracy Alker at [tracya@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:tracya@co.skagit.wa.us).

Cameron Martinez can be reached at [cmartinez@goanacortes.com](mailto:cmartinez@goanacortes.com)

---

**Cameron Martinez**



[https://www.goskagit.com/news/education/community-learns-about-marine-conservation-through-hands-on-activities/article\\_2e175632-64aa-11ef-8c34-8f288527f058.html](https://www.goskagit.com/news/education/community-learns-about-marine-conservation-through-hands-on-activities/article_2e175632-64aa-11ef-8c34-8f288527f058.html)

## Community learns about marine conservation through hands-on activities

AVA RONNING Skagit Valley Herald  
Aug 27, 2024

---

2 of 5

< >

ANACORTES — Community members learned Saturday about aquatic life, conservation and marine resources while interacting with about 26 local conservation organizations at Fidalgo Bay Day.

The free community event hosted by the Skagit Marine Resources Committee also featured activities, prizes, a touch tank, samples of chowder and shellfish, and a Coast Salish salmon barbecue lunch.

The Shannon Point Marine Center hosted the touch tank with six student volunteers from the marine and coastal science program at Western Washington University.

The touch tank is "one of the easiest things to get kids excited about," Shannon Point Marine Center Lab Manager Derek Smith said.

---

Smith is also an instructor in the marine and coastal science program, and this year's Fidalgo Bay Day was his third year with the program.

"I get to do a little bit of everything," he said.



Smith said this year's slightly smaller turnout meant lengthier interactions with the community.

The event drew close to 300.

Next year, the marine center would like to come back wearing costumes of sea animals to further engage with the public.

"More ocean advocates is what we're looking for," Smith said.

Ava Ronning can be reached at [aronning@skagitpublishing.com](mailto:aronning@skagitpublishing.com), 360-416-2141

---

**Ava Ronning**