

COUNTY: Skagit

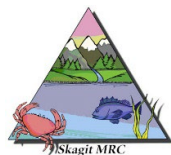
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DELIVERABLE TASK NUMBER: 2.2 Fidalgo Bay Day Final Report

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Fidalgo Bay Day 2022

Sponsored by:

Skagit County Marine Resources Committee

With support of the
Samish Indian Nation



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Fidalgo Bay Day Overview

Fidalgo Bay Day is the Skagit County Marine Resources Committee's (Skagit MRC) signature public outreach event that has taken place annually for the last 18 years (with a 2-year Covid hiatus). This event has primarily been hosted at the Samish Indian Nation's Fidalgo Bay Resort clubhouse.

The main focus of the event is to spread awareness of the marine environment and fostering environmental stewardship. People visiting the event learn a great many things about the ecosystem functions of the plants and animals that live in Fidalgo Bay and the greater Salish Sea. Presenters and visitors form great relationships as a community while sharing their love and knowledge of the marine environment. They also get to enjoy some great seafood while doing so.

Much of the work performed by the Skagit MRC isn't very visible, but it has a huge impact on the health of marine ecosystems. This event gives the public more of an inside look at the important work done by the Skagit MRC, such as marine nearshore monitoring, shoreline restoration projects, supporting the Salish Sea Stewards program, and educating shoreline landowners. Hundreds of visitors attend this event each year and more than 35 different organizations and businesses participate. Activities are varied from year to year and typically include interactive displays from the many participating organizations including WWU Shannon Point's Touch Tank, Deception Pass Rangers explaining a whale skull, children's art and science activities, face painting, beach seining demonstrations, free shellfish and chowder samples, popcorn, and a no-host traditional tribal salmon lunch.

For the eighth year, the Skagit MRC collaborated with Friends of Skagit Beaches who planned and coordinated the "Discovery Passport" activity. Each year, the passport cover is selected from one of the entries in the coloring contest from last year's event. This year, 35 kids participated in the coloring contest to win a spot on the cover of the 2023 Discovery Passport, our biggest participation yet! Over 175 people participated in the passport activity this year. The passport participants explored the discovery stations and interacted with the different organizations hosting the displays to answer the passport questions and get a stamp for prizes. Many indicated they learned something new.

This event pulls together donations from many businesses & organizations in the Community and involves many hours from the SMRC Planning Committee, the Salish Sea Stewards and Friends of Skagit Beaches. The day's success on many fronts: attendance, education, family-oriented crafts, and delicious seafood, was due to over 36 organizations and 125+ people that offered their gifts of expertise, time, energy & donation of materials. This year's event was very well attended; over 300 people, many families with children.

From this year's record-breaking attendance, the interest is there from the local public to attend FBD with its wide selection outdoor events & activities, no admission charge, & plenty of complimentary food. **Fidalgo Bay Day is the SMRC's gift to the local Community of marine environment education, a proven way of fostering environmental stewardship and a day of much shoreline beach fun & food for all.**

2022 Event Summary

Fidalgo Bay Day was held Saturday, August 20th at the Fidalgo Bay RV Resort in Anacortes from 11:00AM to 3:00PM. We had over 300 visitors with decent weather and beautiful scenery. 100+ volunteers and 36 organizations and businesses helped make this year's event a huge success! Parking was at the Resort clubhouse and an adjacent field.

Opening Ceremony: A warm and inspirational welcoming was led by MRC member Jay Lind and Samish tribal member Rosie Cayou James. Rosie shared Samish culture and a traditional song with visitors for the opening ceremony.



Passport Stations: Individuals and groups obtained their passports and instructions from Friends of Skagit Beaches at an entry information booth and set out to learn more about Fidalgo Bay and its beauty and value from our various displays. By answering questions and getting the passport “stamped”, they could compete for prizes while learning about the different organizations and issues impacting the Salish Sea and what they can do to help. Approximately 170 passports were handed out and 80 completed. Thirty five children completed the coloring contest, one will be selected for the 2023 Passport Cover.



Outdoor Interactive Displays:

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.



Deception Park Foundation and State Park brought a gray whale skull. Two park rangers accompanied the WA Parks display this year and educated people about what park rangers do. The passport questions for this station taught kids and adults about baleen whales.



Outdoor Activities: Outdoor passport stations and Beach Seining

Of the 20 organizations who set up educational booths, for a first this year six booths were located outdoors. That arrangement worked well on many levels.



A great attraction was the **traditional “beach seining”** led by Matt Castle and Jason Morgan, with help from their teams. Two sets were made; this year’s haul was very interesting with many fish for visitors to learn about. Some looked for birds on the bay, shells on the beach and others just enjoyed the celebration!



Indoor Interactive Displays: Inside the clubhouse were more interactive educational activities from many different organizations, many were also passport stations. These included Skagit MRC’s clean water minigolf game, Skagit County Public Works poop toss bean bag game, and many other interactive games and displays. A full list of participating groups is included at the end of this report.

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 Crab, groundwater, etc.



Youth Craft Activities: 2022 brought a greatly expanded youth/child marine arts & crafts expansion (from 4 to 12 activities) for all to participate in. Salmon hats, cork boats, recycled hero medallions, face painting, stuffed fish, fish printing on cloth, and gift bag-making with marine critter stamps were just a sample. Bev Mowrer, a 2022 Salish Sea Steward graduate organized and brought 10 volunteers to staff the booths which were jammed packed all day long. We had not planned for this number of children attending and participating, but all stations were full till closing time.



Food - Chowder, Shellfish, Salmon, and More: We borrowed the popcorn machine from the Anacortes Boys and Girls Club and gave away over 100 bags of free popcorn.

Two new (2022) Salish Sea Stewards enticed three *Anacortes Restaurants*: Adrift, Bob's Chowder Bar and the Swinomish Casino and Lodge, to participate in the famous *Fidalgo Bay Day Chowder Contest*. The 3 restaurants offered free samples of some of the best clam chowder in the Northwest!

The Winner in 2022 was Bob's Chowder Bar with secret ingredients of small pieces of razor clams and bacon.



Patio and Beachside, SMRC's own Paul Dinnel and son Eric *grilled Taylor Shellfish oysters* (with his special sauce) and *steamed Taylor Shellfish mussels*. 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.



Samish Elder Rosie Cayou James and her family's **No-Host Traditional Samish Salmon BBQ** made an all-time sales record and the meal was delicious. Rosie Cayou James, Bill Bailey and their family offered a traditional Samish salmon luncheon of salmon grilled over an open fire, raspberry vinaigrette coleslaw, watermelon, and fresh fry bread.





Samish Tribal Support at the Fidalgo Bay Resort: The Samish Indian Nation again graciously hosted our event at their wonderful Fidalgo Bay Resort Clubhouse at no charge. The Clubhouse is located along the beautiful shores of Fidalgo Bay in the heart of the Samish Fidalgo Island ancestral homelands. It is a perfect venue for FBD.

The Resort staff was very helpful this year in dealing with parking space (so many people attending) and opened up additional overflow parking in an additional upper lot. The Resort's staff also solved electrical demands from commercial restaurant gear demands (the Chowder Cook Off).

Many thanks go to the Samish Nation for their generosity - sharing their well-equipped building which is in an ideal location.



Zero Waste: This was a Zero Waste event with compostable utensils, plates, coffee cups, and chowder cups.

Evaluation: Many people gave grand feedback about the event. The number of families with children in attendance was at least triple the amount we have had attending in past years.

Newspaper Coverage:

GoSkagit front page: By Jake Isom, Aug 20, 2022 Fidalgo Bay Day offers fun and education: *The smell of the Salish Sea and barbecued salmon filled the air on Saturday at Fidalgo Bay Day at the Fidalgo Bay Resort.* A whale skull is displayed on Saturday at Fidalgo Bay Day in Anacortes.

Skagit American front page: By Briana Alzola, Aug 23, 2022 *Fidalgo Bay Day buzzed with people milling about, taking on challenges and talking to state, city and community officials and volunteers.*

Volunteers: This year, more than 100 volunteers contributed over 600 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 we had 20 excellent displays. Thank you to each and every one of them.

On the day before the event, several volunteers helped set up display tables and signage, and prepared the sauces for the shellfish. On the day of the event, volunteers arrived at 8:30AM to help set up and many stayed until 4:00PM to clean up.

This event is truly a team effort! This year's FBD lead was Skagit MRC member Darla Gay Smith, who could not have done it without the extensive help provided by other key helpers including:

Administration and Event Promotion: Tracy Alker, Pete Haase,
Skagit County intern Cindy Elston, Jay Lind

Event Planning Team (all are 2022 Salish Sea Steward graduates):
Mary Campbell, Dave Dettman, Bria J. Hedahl, Andrea Insley, Greg Insley,
Beverly Mowrer, Paul Vance, Joan White, Patricia Winkle

Shellfish: Paul Dinnel and Team

Kid's Activities: Bev Mowrer and her 10 Volunteers, MVHS Key Club Students

Parking: Morty Cohen and Team

Beach Seine: Matt Castle, Jason Morgan and Team

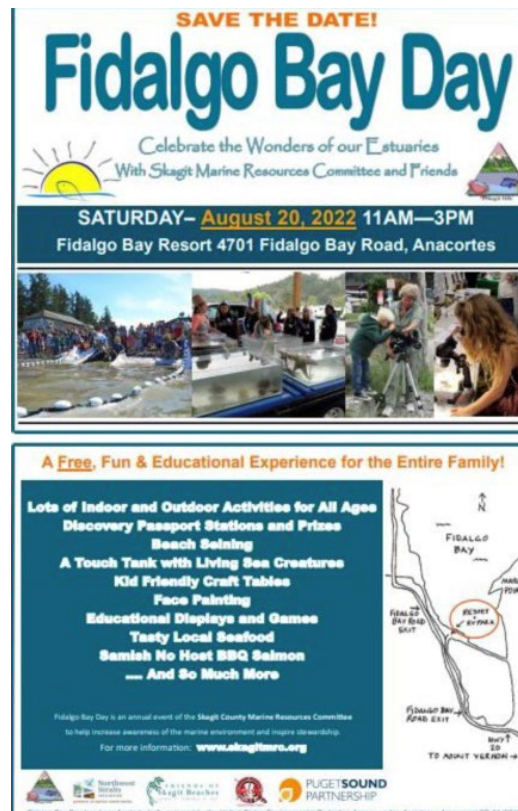
Passport Stations: Betty Carteret and Friends of Skagit Beaches Team

Planning and Promotion: There are extensive 2022 FBD planning documents and notes available upon request. These include: Kids' Activities (including supplies needed), complete Event Timelines, Save the Date poster, half-sheet Promotional Postcards with location map, and suggestions for the following year.

Fidalgo Bay Day flyers were widely distributed at special events and places of business. The event was also widely posted online and on partner websites, newsletters, and email lists. Ads were placed in The Clamdigger, the Skagit Kid Insider, and both Salish Sea Stewards Facebook pages. Local reporters were contacted, and post-event articles appeared on the front pages of both local papers. The traditional volunteer-installed roadside sign was posted on “R” avenue coming into town.

Darla Gay Smith of the SMRC took the lead of the 2022 FBD to keep the event in the SMRC’s 2-year budget and not let a popular local tradition in existence since 2004 become lost in the Covid shuffle. After a 2-year hiatus, many donors’ contact names had changed and nearly 1/2 of volunteers had vanished. We drew heavily this year from the Salish Sea Stewards 2022 graduating class to both plan, set up/tear down the event and run the crafts section. The 10 SSS volunteers who helped plan and execute the day had never attended a FBD event! After this year’s event we now have very current contacts and a set calendar of time frames to insure organizational participation / donations.

It takes a village, or many, many tide pools coming together to make Fidalgo Bay Day occur each year, as it has since 2004. The Skagit Marine Resources Committee’s goal of increasing public awareness of the marine environment and fostering environmental stewardship was more than realized and Fidalgo Bay Day 2022 was a resounding success. The consensus of those attending, the educational booths, the contributing businesses, and the volunteers working was that the day was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Acknowledgements

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
- Friends of Skagit Beaches provided insurance coverage for the facility, sandwich board signs, and passport activity and prizes
- Complimentary seafood chowder was provided by Adrift Restaurant, Bob's Chowder Bar and the Swinomish Casino and Lodge
- Complimentary shellfish (small top-off oysters and mussels) was provided by Taylor Shellfish
- The Anacortes Boys and Girls Club loaned the popcorn machine
- Mount Vernon High School Key Club provided additional volunteers.
- Over 600 volunteer hours were expended



2022 Participating Businesses and Organizations

Acton Academy

Adrift Restaurant

Anacortes American and GoSkagit Newspapers

Bob's Chowder Bar and BBQ Salmon

City of Anacortes

Deception Pass Rangers

Deception Pass State Park
Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve Citizens' Stewardship Committee
Fidalgo Bay Resort
Friends of Skagit Beaches
Mount Vernon High School Key Club
Northwest Straits Commission
Northwest Straits Foundation (Jason Morgan - Seining)
Northwest Straits Foundation
OrcaNet
PacMam / Pacific Mammal Research
Padilla Bay Foundation
Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Port of Anacortes
RE Sources for Sustainable Communities
Rosie Cayou James Family
Rosie's Salish Foods
Salish Sea School
Salish Sea Stewards
Samish Indian Nation
SCEA / Skagit Conservation Education Alliance
SFEG / Watershed Council
Shannon Point Marine Center, WWU
Skagit Conservation District
Skagit County Public Health Department
Skagit County Public Works
Skagit Land Trust
Skagit Marine Resources Committee
SMRC Forage Fish Program
Swinomish Casino and Lodge
Swinomish Environmental
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
Taylor Shellfish Farms
Washington State Department of Ecology
Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Aquatic Reserves Division

https://www.goskagit.com/community/fidalgo-bay-day-offers-fun-and-education/article_0fa85874-1400-5129-a319-9bdcde1a00d9.html

Fidalgo Bay Day offers fun and education

By JAKE ISOM @goskagit
Aug 20, 2022



A whale skull is displayed on Saturday at Fidalgo Bay Day in Anacortes. The skull was found near Whidbey Island in 2011. Jake Isom / Skagit Valley Herald

ANACORTES — The smell of the Salish Sea and barbecued salmon filled the air on Saturday at Fidalgo Bay Day at the Fidalgo Bay Resort.

The Skagit Marine Resources Committee (MRC) has hosted the event since 2004, except in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the Skagit MRC website, "the purpose of this free event is to increase public awareness of the marine environment and foster environmental stewardship."

This year's Bay Day welcomed hundreds of families, one of the highest turnouts in event history.

"I'm just really super pleased with the turnout and I'm just really glad to see the families," Skagit MRC member and event organizer Darla Smith said.



Around 16 educational booths allowed attendees to learn about the Salish Sea, its marine environment and many other topics.

There was also a touch tank from Western Washington University's Shannon Point Marine Center, a salmon barbecue, a beach seining demonstration and a giant whale skull on display.

"People have been really waiting to get back out to an event like this because it's been held for a long time and it's always been popular," said Skagit MRC member and event organizer Pete Haase.

— Reporter Jake Isom: jisom@skagitpublishing.com, 360-416-2141, Twitter @goskagit

Jake Isom

Newsroom

https://www.goskagit.com/anacortes/news/fidalgo-bay-day-celebrates-bay-s-resources/article_2a434502-232f-11ed-9472-fb26a9e93089.html

Fidalgo Bay Day celebrates bay's resources

By Briana Alzola balzola@goanacortes.com

Aug 23, 2022

Fidalgo Bay Day buzzed with people milling about, taking on challenges and talking to state, city and community officials and volunteers.

The visitors also came ready with questions.

When stopping at the starting booth, each visitor (child or adult) could pick up a passport filled with questions they had to find answers for at each community organization included in the annual event. For each answer, they received a sticker in their passport.

At least 10 stickers meant a prize.

Each station had one question for adults and another for children. For example, at the state Department of Natural Resources and Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve Citizen Stewardship Committee, the children needed to figure out three species of animals that use the reserve as a habitat and adults had to figure out whether the DNR reserve is off limits to the public.

At the Northwest Straits booth, the kids figured out how to tell male and female Dungeness crab apart, and the adults figured out what steps to take to prevent crab pot loss.

From the Orca Network booth, kids learned the difference between baleen and toothed whales, and the adults talked to the experts on why Southern Resident orcas are dying while Biggs transient orcas are thriving.

The passport features a colored drawing on the front, completed two years ago at the last Fidalgo Bay Day. During this year's event, many kids tried their hands at coloring a new drawing. The best one will be used as the cover of next year's passport, according to Betty Carteret with Friends of Skagit Beaches. That organization hosts the passport portion of the event.

The Friends of Skagit Beaches used to host their own event in line with National Estuaries Day, but decided to join with Fidalgo Bay Day a few years ago to help bring awareness to the community about the resources that are here, she said.

"This is a really popular event and the kids come here excited about learning," she said.

The visitors look forward to experiencing new things, she said.

Darla Gay Smith was the organizer with the event. She said education is such an important part of protecting natural resources and is even more effective when the students are having fun while learning.

The families are playing and building crafts, but also learning to recycle and what steps they can take to protect the beach, she said.

The education also instills in young people a "sense of possession," Smith said.

"If they have that sense of possession and it makes them want to care for the land and the beach, that's huge," she said.

The booths were swarmed with people all day, with an estimated 300 people or more coming through to learn more about marine resources, making paper crafts, try their hands at experiments and sample seafood dishes.

The event, hosted by the Skagit Marine Resources Committee, brought together 18 community organizations which shared information with visitors, plus allowed them to take part in a variety of activities. At one booth, kids could "fish" over a cloth barrier, pulling out either a stuffed animal (to save) or a piece of trash, which they removed from the water. At another, they learned how rainfall can send oil and other pollutants into the water. Families were able to test water samples, use microscopes to get a closer look at organisms, stand next to a large grey whale skull and touch starfish and crabs.

A demonstration of beach seining sent everyone down to to the water's edge, where volunteers pulled a large net through the water and collected small forage fish from near the shore.

The other portion of the event was filled with the smells of cooking food. Adrift, Bob's Chowder Bar and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community all cooked up large containers of clam chowder, which they handed out for free to guests. Everyone who

came through could sample all three of the chowders and then cast their vote for which they thought was best. At the end of the voting period, Bob's Chowder Bar came out on top, with the community-voted best chowder out of the three.

Visitors also had the chance to eat free mussels cooked outside, as well as salmon dinner and frybread created by Rosie Cayou of the Samish Indian Nation and her family.

In addition to the food and community booths, a crafts station encouraged young people to complete one (or all) of 12 different crafts set up around the room. Salmon hats, complete with streamer tails, painting with rubber fish models, cork-based sailboats, medallions for recycling superheros and stuffed paper salmon were all available.

Bev Powrer, a former teacher from Bow, ran the craft section this year. She taught for more than 30 years and said working with kids makes her happy.

She worked with students all day, helping them cut their salmon out and cutting the dangling streamers.

The kids have a great time taking part in hands-on activities, she said. It's a fun way to get them to engage in the natural environment.

8.26.2022

**To All Contributing Groups, Businesses & Individuals
who Participated in Fidalgo Bay Day 2022**

It takes a village, or many, many tide pools coming together to make **Fidalgo Bay Day** occur each year, as it has since 2004.



The Skagit Marine Resources Committee's *goal of increasing public awareness of the marine environment & fostering environmental stewardship* was a **resounding success this year** (after a 2 year hiatus). Over 300 people attended the event.

The day's success (in attendance, education, family oriented crafts & delicious seafood) was due to your unwavering, generous support. Your involvement and gifts of expertise, time, energy, volunteerism & donation of materials made the SMRC's goal highly realized.

Know that your efforts have made Skagit County more aware of the resources residing in our precious Salish Sea & the challenges faced. ***The SMRC thanks you wholeheartedly for your participation & generosity in Fidalgo Bay Day 2022.***

See following pages for all the Organizations & Volunteers involved in 2022.

Enthusiastically,

Darla Gay Smith
SMRC 2022 Fidalgo Bay Day Lead

Samish Indian Nation	Fidalgo Bay Resort	Shannon Point Marine Center, WWU
Deception Pass State Park	Rosie Cayou James Family	Friends of Skagit Beaches
Skagit Marine Resources Committee	Northwest Straits Foundation	Salish Sea Stewards

Taylor Shellfish Farms	Adrift Restaurant	Bob's Chowder Bar & BBQ Salmon
Swinomish Casino & Lodge	Rosie's Salish Foods	Anacortes American & GoSkagit Newspapers

Skagit County Public Health	PacMam	Acton Academy
SCEA	Washington State Department of Natural Resources	Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
SMRC Forage Fish Program	Skagit County Public Works	SMRC
RE Sources for Sustainable Communities	Skagit Land Trust	OrcaNet

Salish Sea School	Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve	Padilla Bay Foundation
Port of Anacortes	Swinomish Environmental	Deception Pass Rangers
Conservation District	City of Anacortes	SFEG / Watershed Council

Volunteers:

<p>Oyster BBQ:</p> <p>Paul Dinnel & Erik Dinnel, Dennis Parent, Scott Petersen, Greg Insley</p>	<p>Beach Seining:</p> <p>Jason Moragan, Chris Brown, Pattie Hutchins, Tom Richards, Don Coleman, Hal Lee, Matt Castle</p>
<p>FOSB Passport Volunteers:</p> <p>Betty Carteret, Betty Kuehn, Diane Eiesland, Pat Johnson, Erica Pickett, Joan Magee, Karen Richman</p>	<p>Parking: Morty Cohen, Paul Vance, et al</p> <p>Set Up/Tear Down:</p> <p>B.J. Hedahl, Patricia Bonacic, Mary Campbell, Steve Purcer</p> <p>Popcorn:</p> <p>Elizabeth Richards</p>
<p>Booth Organizations:</p> <p>Amy Eberling, Betty Carteret, Carla Glassman, Christine Longdon, Cindy Elliser, Cindy Hansen, Connie Wyatt, Corrina Marote, Craig Olson, Diane Hennebert, Erica Bleke, Haley Sherman, Holli Watne, Jason Morgan, Jason Quigley, Jeff Whitty, Joy Kacoroski, Kevin Anderson, Lucy DeGrace, Lindsay Logan, Michelle Marquardt, Rachel Wilkens, Rondi Nordal, Ryan Mielke, Stacy Dahl, Susan Wood, Tim Gohrke, Tracy Alker, Wayne Huseby</p>	<p>SMRC Crafts:</p> <p>Bev Mowrer, Carole Anderson, Donna Davison, Dalton Elder, Aden Elder, Eiren McKay, Jennifer Mortenson, Faye Whitney, Deb Whitney, Trisha Winkler (SSS), Kathy Carroll (Photographer)</p>
<p>SMRC Organizing Committee & Committee Volunteers:</p> <p>Darla Gay Smith, Pete Haase, Tracy Alker, Jay Lind, Cindy Elston</p> <p>Patricia Bonacic, Mary Campbell, Dave Dettman, Bria J. Hedahl, Andrea Insley, Greg Insley, Beverly Mowrer, Jim Mowrer, Paul Vance, Joan White, Patricia Winkler</p>	<div data-bbox="824 1371 1104 1843">  <p>Rosie Cayou James ★ Favorites · 1d · 🌐</p> <p>We will soon need too clear parking lot and use the whole place to accommodate the crowd and it was really super crowded. It was such a beautiful day. Matt Castle did a beach seining gig, the whole inside was full of vendors, from Skagit Health Dept. to Salish Sea Stewards. Darla Gay You were a huge part of bringing many nature healers together. Fidalgo Bay Day is a great way to help everyone understand the situation we are facing, kelp shortages, pollution, over harvesting, and more. Ty. From the bottom of our hearts & souls. Samish is proud to be a large part of the community.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1161 1430 1429 1843">  <p>Rosie Cayou James ★ Favorites · 7h · 🌐</p> <p>Huge gratitude to our i unbiological children. You all did d a excellent job, cooking salmon, ty, for being there to help, the salmon was great. You got a hella compliments. Matt Castle Sarah Wheatley Toby Mcleod</p> <p>Also, ty, to, Verne McLeod Roxanne Wilbur April James Ginger James William Bailey Darla Gay</p> </div>