

**January 2017**

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**Commission welcomes new director,  
Rich Childers!**

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**Upcoming events**

January 25, 2017 from  
7:30-9:20 PM. [Film  
screening: A Plastic Ocean](#)  
- Join Whatcom MRC and  
Whatcom Watershed



Please join us in welcoming Rich Childers as the Northwest Straits Commission’s incoming director! Selected from a pool of highly-qualified candidates, Rich comes to us from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, where he has served as the shellfish policy lead since 2005.

"It is such a privilege to join a team with so much talent and enthusiasm towards protecting our marine resources," says Rich. "It truly is an honor to serve as your new director."

Rich’s interest in marine issues goes back to the start of his career as a commercial diver in Santa Barbara. He left the commercial diving world to pursue a career in fisheries, earning a bachelor’s degree in marine fisheries at Humboldt State University and a master’s degree in parasitology from Oregon State. Rich spent four years on the coast of Ecuador working for the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission managing tuna fisheries and effecting changes in fishing methods to reduce dolphin mortalities in the tuna fishery. He’s been managing shellfish fisheries in Puget Sound since 1995 and is enthusiastic about working more closely with the local Marine Resources Committees.



Rich’s arrival means we also extend a grateful farewell to our outgoing director, Ginny Broadhurst. After thirteen years with the Northwest Straits Commission, including nine as director, she has been a steady hand, a trusted colleague, and an incredible ambassador for us

Information Network for a special viewing of this important film.

January 27, 2017 from 10:00 AM-3:00 PM. [Northwest Straits Commission meeting](#) - Dungeness River Audubon Center, Clallam County.

February 11, 2017 from 8:00 AM-5:00 PM. [Hazwoper Training](#) - Join Clallam MRC for this FREE training. Register before February 3!

March 7, 2017. [Salish Sea Steward Training](#) - Skagit MRC is working in partnership with Coastal Volunteer Partnership to offer this FREE 40 hour training for volunteers of the Salish Sea.

Save the Date! August 12, 2017. [Fidalgo Bay Day](#) - hosted by the Skagit Marine Resources Committee.

### Tip of the month



When recycling plastic bottles, remove caps before placing them in the bin. Why? These grades of



throughout the region and beyond.

"The Commission has been extremely fortunate to have had Ginny as its leader," said Nan McKay, Northwest Straits Commission Chair "Ginny has been adept at policy and strategy, working with people, communicating our story and mission, managing multiple processes, and acting as our ambassador to partners. Everyone involved with the Commission wishes her all the best in this next chapter of her life."

## Citizen scientists featured in kelp survey video



Northwest Straits Initiative - Surveying Kelp

There are 23 species of kelp in Puget Sound and volunteers in all seven counties of the Northwest Straits region are conducting surveys to document the location of bull kelp forests. These citizen scientists are supported by the Northwest Straits Initiative - watch the story of their work - and see some incredible scenery - in this short video produced for the Northwest Straits Foundation by Transect Films.

Learn more about our work on kelp recovery on our [website](#).

## ABOUT US

The [Northwest Straits Commission](#) provides funding, training and support to seven county-based [Marine Resources Committees](#) (MRCs) to assist with their work protecting and restoring local marine resources. Learn more about the Commission on our website at [www.nwstraits.org](http://www.nwstraits.org).

plastic are not recyclable in Washington, and mixing lids with bottles will diminish the value of bottle-grade plastic. Find out more on recycling plastic [here](#).

## In other news

[Federal action a great start on protecting Puget Sound habitat](#), Seattle Times – December 27, 2016

[State Supreme Court upholds stormwater rules](#), Peninsula Daily News – January 2, 2017

[Governor's report: Salmon remain in trouble in Washington](#), Kitsap Sun – January 4, 2017

[Study shows past decline in Fidalgo Bay eelgrass](#), Skagit Valley Herald - January 12, 2017



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