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Fidalgo Bay Day 2013

A Public Education Program Sponsored by
Skagit County Marine Resources Committee
Samish Nation
Shannon Point Marine Center



Photo: Ivar Dolph

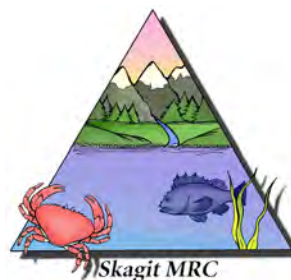


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This report was compiled by Beach Watcher and Skagit County Marine Resources Committee member Erica Pickett.

Fidalgo Bay Day 2013

Wow. Our Tenth Fidalgo Bay Day. Who would have imagined that all these people would still be working together after all these years? While we have lost some favorite people to changes in age or location and we have lost an important participant with the demise of People for Puget Sound, we have also gained new stalwart volunteers and a fine new organization supporting public education, Friends of Skagit Beaches. And, taking over for People for Puget Sound, we gained a new partner in the Washington Environmental Council.

Friends and other groups including the Washington Environmental Council decided to combine an event celebrating National Estuaries Day with Fidalgo Bay Day, stretching displays and activities out along the popular shoreline trail Anacortesans know as the Tommy Thompson Parkway. Chair Betty Carteret reported that their group handed out 57 passports and gave out 30 prizes to those who visited all six stations listed. We are all going to get together for an evaluation of the event, but we think it seems like the two events went together well.

This year's event was organized by Beach Watchers Lin Folsom and Wayne Huseby. Both are experienced in the ways of events and people. They had no trouble dealing with the added dimension brought by National Estuaries Day and carried out their organizing duties with good humor and great aplomb.

Beach Watcher Michele Pope is a member of the board of the Anacortes Parks Foundation and convinced her fellow board members to vote to fund a visit of the huge salmon-on-a-trailer called Fin. This 26-foot fiberglass fish is designed so that children may crawl into the fish's mouth and learn the whole story of the life of salmon in the Northwest. This is the first time we have had this fun maker for kids at Fidalgo Bay Day and it wouldn't have happened without the dedication of Michele and her husband John who collected the trailer in Bayview, hauled it to the RV Park and then towed it over to its next stop in Port Townsend after the event.

Reactions to the "fish cave" ranged from real apprehension among the under-two group to downright enthusiasm among some of the 8-10 year-olds who found the experience so enchanting that they decided to camp inside and had to be coaxed back out of the fish's mouth. Everyone, regardless of age, agreed that the huge fish was really cool.

We were again fortunate to have the generous cooperation of local restaurants and our favorite ice cream store, the Mad Hatter. Gere-A-Deli provided a large tray of the world's finest brownies for the crowd to enjoy with tea or coffee. Mary Ann of Mary Ann's Kitchen let four of us, Paul Dinnel, Vicki McNeil, Pat Steffani and Erica Pickett, use her certified kitchen to cut up all the onions and spices for Paul's special sauce for the mussels and clams.



Taylor Shellfish Farms came through once again with several hundred dollars worth of clams and delectable mussels. Paul Dinnel prepared a sauce for the mussels that was so good that a link to the recipe has been added to this report. The clam sauce was also exceptional. So here is the question: is it true that Paul and Vicki don't actually spend their vacation in Idaho but rather fly to France to update their Cordon Bleu accreditation?

Here is the link to Paul's recipe for the mussels: <http://www.epicurious.com/recipes/food/printerfriendly/Baked-Stuffed-Mussels-242009>? There are a few changes, of course. He prefers to steam the mussels in chicken stock with sauteed onions and some herbs added. What herbs? Your choice, of course! Paul uses herbs from his own garden.

Representatives of the Samish Tribe gave us a lovely traditional welcome in the morning. We have been the fortunate beneficiaries of a whole lot of help from Samish, including the use of their spacious conference center with its commercial kitchen.

New this year was the Samish canoe, a beautiful craft on the beach that the Samish shared with visitors to our day. Passengers were fitted out with life jackets and introduced to the traditions aboard. When they are not propelling the canoe, paddles are always carried with the point to the sky and the eye on the face of the paddle looking ahead. Passengers introduced themselves to the canoe so that the boat would know them. The canoe went out into the middle of the Bay, making a round trip in about thirty minutes.

As ever, Shannon Point Marine Center brought us the most amazing collection of small sea creatures for viewing as well as a cheerful and capable staff to tell all about them. Incoming freshmen we all wearing colorful hats to suggest some kind of kinship to various sea creatures and the colors did a lot to liven things up visually.

Dr. Sylvia Yang and Shawn Arellano from Shannon Point Marine Center set up a mini version of a nearshore study using quarter-sized quadrats in order to show both the audience and the freshmen what is involved in recording the substrate and organisms in a nearshore area. Their set-up was one of the stops on the National Estuaries Day passport loop.

Beach Watcher Bob Weathers set up his seive to show off smelt eggs on the beach. He was representing the Forage Fish Survey team which has been sampling for smelt eggs along Fidalgo Bay this year.

We owe a big debt of thanks to Dan Penttila, Darrell Asseln and John Cornelius for managing the boat and beach seine. Dan always gives a great show to the kids and their parents as he passes around a fish in a plastic bag of water so that everyone can see the animal eyeball-to-eyeball, up close.

One of the happy surprises of this event was a magician! I don't think the organizing committee would have thought of it. The Port of Anacortes had engaged Elliott Hofferth to do his magic act for a kids' day around the marina. Staffer Leah Hines decided that it was crazy to have two kids' events on the same day at two different locations and sent him our way. Elliot is a local performer who already has most all of the stage skills of magicians four times his age. We were all transfixed by his amazing show. Many thanks to Leah and the Port of Anacortes for their thoughtfulness and generosity.

The Samuel G. Brooks Guild of Anacortes is listed among the organizations because Wayne Huseby borrowed the safety vests from them for our parking crew. Wayne was slated to help with their home and boat tour on Sunday.

Our visitors came from all over. Remember that we hold this event right next to the RV Park on Fidalgo Bay, so we have many visitors from all over the place. Our two visitors from Venezuela are in the area because Carmen is working on a special project for Shell Oil. And our visitor from India is here because she is going to school at Shannon Point Marine Center. So you just never know.

We counted 221 folks through the door with 93 of them from the Anacortes zip code and 17 from the Mount Vernon area. It is always hard to know how many people we miss, since some of them don't pass the welcome table and others come in from the north and don't see us. Perhaps we welcome people aren't as assertive as we might be about getting people to give us their zip codes. But for sure we had 221 folks there. As usual, we had more people from out of state (22) than from Burlington (2). One of our thoughts about improving communication with our neighbors to the east is to try to get posters put up in the break rooms of factories and facilities over that way.

Many thanks to Skagit County and the help they give to the Marine Resources Committee in the excellent help we have in Tracy Alker. Tracy is always patient with us, takes the time to solve our problems regardless of how many other things she has to do and is the consummate professional. She is the best and most conscientious administrative aide one could ever hope to have.

Many thanks to the Samish Nation for their very generous donation of a perfect location and spacious building. The staff who work with us to set things up (Scott Cooper and Robert Smith) are especially good, providing instant answers, solutions and boundless good humor.

What would we do without our dedicated volunteers, many of whom spent the whole day minding tables, answering questions, making a ton of popcorn (Elizabeth Richards!), serving shellfish and, at the end, folding everything up. Beach Watchers, you are AWESOME!

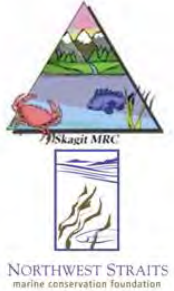


Fidalgo Bay Day

September 14, 2013 11 AM—3 PM

Fidalgo Bay Resort

4701 Fidalgo Bay Road, Anacortes, WA

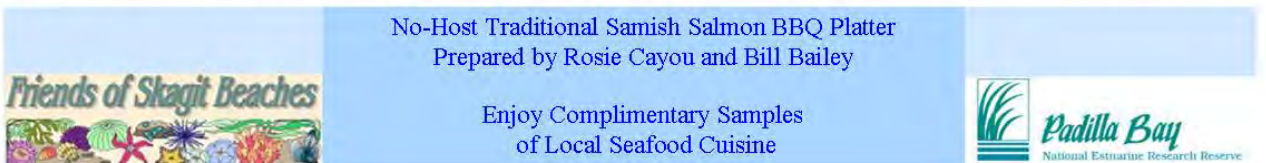


A Fun & Educational Experience for the Entire Family!



Celebrate the beauty, history, and marine life of Fidalgo Bay
See and touch living sea creatures
Participate in the popular beach seining

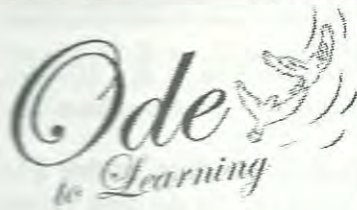
Help us commemorate the 25th anniversary of National Estuary Day
Self-guided walks of discovery with scavenger hunt
Learn about our bay from docents stationed along the Tommy Thompson Trail



No-Host Traditional Samish Salmon BBQ Platter
Prepared by Rosie Cayou and Bill Bailey

Enjoy Complimentary Samples
of Local Seafood Cuisine

Wayne Huseby produced this informational poster to pin up around town and across the valley.



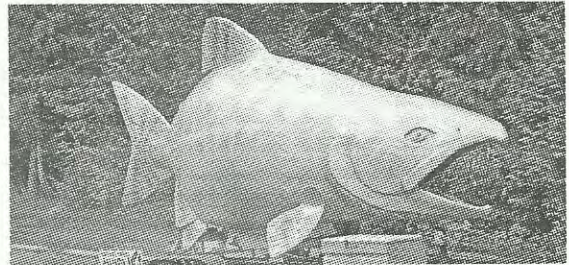
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Fidalgo Bay Day

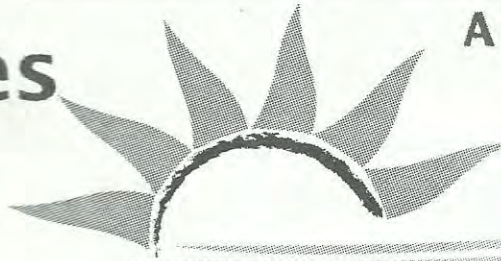


Saturday, September 14
11am-3pm, Fidalgo Bay Resort
4701 Fidalgo Bay Road, Anacortes

A DAY OF FREE FAMILY FUN!

- Crafts • Hands on Exploration • Beach Seining
- Meet Fin the 26' Salmon
- Free Oyster Samples provided by Taylor Shellfish
- Free Chowder tastings y Mary Ann's & Randy's
- No host Samish BBQ Salmon

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Anacortes Senior Center
- Sat, Sep. 7 from 2:30 - 4 PM
Guemes Community Hall
- Sat, Sep. 21 from 2:30 - 4 PM
Anacortes Senior Center
- Thu, Sep. 26 from 6:30 - 8 PM
Anacortes Senior Center

Call Whidbey Sun & Wind at 360.678.7131
or e-mail solar.now@whidbeywind.com

This ad appeared in our local weekly advertiser called the Clamdigger. Great location - right across from the Crossword puzzle.

THIS WEEKEND in the area

ANTIQUE TECHNOLOGY The 18th annual Anacortes Antique Engine & Machinery Show will take place from **9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14**, behind the historic W.T. Preston steam-powered sternwheeler at Market Street and Sixth Avenue, in Anacortes. Enjoy rail rides, a variety of chugging old engines, children's activities, music and more. A parade of tractors and vintage vehicles at 11 a.m. will feature the 1899 fire engine from the movie "Hello Dolly" and the Anacortes Fire Department's restored 1924 American LaFrance fire truck. Tommy Thompson's Anacortes Railway engine will also be on display. Free admission. 360-293-1915.

CAR SHOW The fourth annual Stanwood Community and Senior Center Car Show will take place from **8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14**, in the center's front parking lot at 7430 276th St. NW, Stanwood. Check out all makes and models of custom and classic cars, arts and crafts vendors, door prizes and trophies. Breakfast: \$5. Hot dog lunch: \$3. Strawberry shortcake: \$4. Car registration: \$20. Free admission for spectators. *For information, contact Sandy at 360-629-7403, ext. 112.*

ART OF THE BOAT Coupeville will celebrate the Art of The Boat from **10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14**. The celebration will include boat art, music, literary readings and classic boats on display in and around Coupeville. Free admission. 360-678-5434.

FREE CONCERT To commemorate its 20th anniversary, Country Meadow Village, 1501 Collins Road, Sedro-Woolley, will host a free concert at **2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 15**. The one-hour concert will feature cellist Louie Richmond and pianist Judith Gordon. Everyone welcome. 360-856-0404.



Celebrate the 25th anniversary of National Estuary Day from **11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14**, at Fidalgo Bay RV Park, 4701 Fidalgo Bay Road, Anacortes. Enjoy self-guided walks and learn about the bay from docents stationed along the Tommy Thompson Trail. See and touch living sea creatures and participate in beach seining. Enjoy complimentary samples of local seafood cuisine. Dine on a no-host traditional Samish salmon barbecue platter. Free admission. skagitbeaches.org.

This colorful announcement appeared in the Skagit Valley Herald's Thursday edition of their 360 entertainment section thanks to the good offices of Michele Pope.

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Lands.

Don Wick, Economic
Development Association
of Skagit County execu-
tive director, shared some
of the marketing the orga-
nization does. He said
EDASC is involved with a
lot of trade shows and does
online and direct mail mar-
keting. He said the most
successful quality leads
come from referrals, either
from a network of local
businesses or through state
or federal agencies.

He said an important
thing to do when it finds
a company is to do a deep
interview and find a match
if possible.

"The last four years up
until about eight or nine
months ago it was pretty
thin out there with com-
panies and investors look-
ing to do projects. It's
been everywhere in this
country as you know with
the economy. But that's
picked up considerably in
the last, let's say, seven or
eight months even maybe a
year," Wick said.

EDASC now has about
25 companies it's work-
ing with now, and some of
those will make a decision
to locate here, he said. The
organization doesn't spend
much time on retail unless
it is asked to come in on
a project, Wick said. It's
focus is more on the man-

ufacturing side, since that
type of industry is a mul-
tiplier and creates other
opportunities.

Councilman Brian Geer
said they need to be patient
and let the economy come
back. He said the city did a
good job prepping the site
for businesses.

"That property will ben-
efit us," he said.

If the schedule contin-
ues as expected, RFQ sub-
missions could be required
by early October.

Read more about
the community at
goanacortes.com

e fitness center

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be solely dedicated to aero-
bic fitness. A 225-square-
foot corridor/lobby area is
also proposed.

The new facility will not
impact public parking or
views and no existing trees
will be removed. The pool
is undergoing an extensive
project to remove all inva-
sive ivy, and as part of the
proposed project, new land-
scaping beds will be added.



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Michele's fish was
the focus of our
ad in the Anacortes
American.

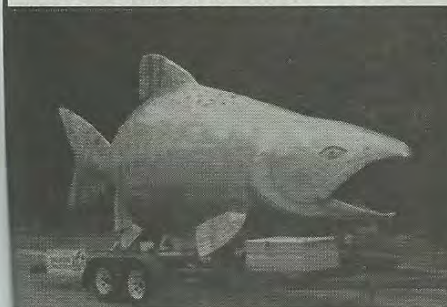
Fidalgo Bay Day

September 14, 2013

11:00 to 3:00

Fidalgo Bay Resort

4701 Fidalgo Bay Road, Anacortes



**A DAY OF FREE
FAMILY FUN!**

- Hands on exploration!
- Beach seining!
- Meet Fin the 26 ft salmon!
- Free oyster samples provided by
Taylor Shellfish
- Free chowder tasting by
Mary Ann's & Randy's
- No host Samish barbeque salmon.



Photo: Ivar Dolph

Karen Richman was one of several Beach Watchers who worked a couple of hours at Fidalgo Bay Day and then a couple of hours at a station along the trail for National Estuaries Day.



Photo: Ivar Dolph

Bikes are a popular way to reach Fidalgo Bay Day since the Fidalgo Bay Resort is right along the Thompson Trail.



Photo: Michele Pope

Twenty-six feet of fish marked the entrance to our event this year.

Dr. Mark Wenzel, our new superintendent of schools in Anacortes, finds the inside of Fin the Salmon a cozy spot to share with his son. The inside of the huge fish is painted with a mural of a typical north-west riparian area, complete with an eagle overhead with a salmon in its talons.



Photo: Michele Pope



Photo: Ivar Dolph



Photo: Michele Pope

Kids found Fin the Salmon to be irresistible.



Freshmen from Shannon Point Marine Center were asked to wear brightly colored hats which represented some kind of sea life. The hats really added a festive touch!



One of the Shannon Point students shows off a leather star to a youngster.



Photo: Ivar Dolph

Beach Watchers Raffi Manion and Tammy Ennen greet visitors at the door and sell luncheon tickets for the salmon plate served by Bill Bailey and Rosie James.



Photo: Michele Pope

Rosie James, David Blackinton and Adam Lorio (left to right) provided the audience with a lovely traditional Samish welcome.



Photo: Ivar Dolph

Some of the freshmen from Shannon Point try their hands at fish printing with the help of Beach Watcher Bev Dresen. The student in red hails from India!



Photo: Ivar Dolph

This year Wayne Huseby was able to connect with the Anacortes Green Club and they turned out a display. They have only been in school about a week at this point, so we were extra glad to have them participate.



Two girls studiously find the answers to questions in their passports at the Pacific Biodiversity display.



Kids enjoy the fish printing activity.



Photo: Ivar Dolph

The Skagit Land Trust display held the interest of young and old alike.



Photo: Ivar Dolph

Richelle Potter of SCEA (left) decided to be creative during the show and was making sea creatures out of bamboo sticks and rice paper. Good going, Richelle!



Photo: Ivar Dolph

One of the interns from Padilla Bay sets up the video macroscope.



Photo: Ivar Dolph

Exploring at the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve display.



Photo: Ivar Dolph

A couple of youngsters get some help making a salmon bracelet at the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group display.



Photo: Ivar Dolph

Rick Haley of Skagit County's surface water division shows off the interactive activity he made up for the day.



Photo: Ivar Dolph

Beach Watcher Sheila Tomas helps kids make buttons with pictures of sea creatures.



Photo: Ivar Dolph

The combined display for the Mammal Stranding Network and OrcaNet is a little larger each year.



Photo: Lynn Karns

Making notecards with rubber stamps is one of our most popular activities. The kids were still making things even as displays around them were being packed up at the end of the day.



Photo: Ivar Dolph

Dr. Sylvia Yang (left) from Shannon Point talks it over with a colleague.



Adam Lorio gives some final instructions before the Samish canoe leaves for its voyage to the middle of the bay.



Even though many of these folks had never been in a big canoe like this, they handled the boat like veterans.

Beach Watcher Bob Weathers shows off smelt eggs.



Photo: Lynn Karns



Photo: Ivar Dolph

Bob is part of the Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve Citizens' Stewardship Committee.



Photo: Ivar Dolph

Paul Dinnel was our master chef for the day and the mussels and clams he fixed elicited rave reviews from all comers.



Photo: Ivar Dolph

Bill and Rosie's salmon plate proved to be very popular with the crowd.



Elliott Hofferth provided an amazing magic act for the crowd.



Kids and parents enjoy the magic show.



Skipper Darrell Asseln helps to haul in the seine while Beach Watcher Sheila Tomas gets a workout. In the background is Fred Burke, student teacher at Anacortes High School.



Fish from the seine were distributed among several buckets to give lots of people an up-close look.



Photo: Ivar Dolph

The beach seine event always draws a big crowd.



Photo: Ivar Dolph

Fish biologist Dan Penttila tells people about the fish in the plastic bag full of water. He will pass it around so everyone gets a good look.

Name	Affiliation
Tracy Alker	Skagit County Marine Resources Committee
Darrell Asseln	All-around Great Skipper
Judy Bown	WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers
Fred Burke	Marine Scientist-to-be
Betty Carteret	WSU Skagit Beach Watchers, Friends of Skagit Beaches
Morty Cohen	WSU Skagit Beach Watchers, Friends of Skagit Beaches
Bill Connor	WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers
John Cornelius	All-around Great Seine Skiff Mate
Lucy DeGrace	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
Paul Dinnel	MRC, Shannon Point Marine Center
Andrea Doll	WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers
Ivar Dolph	MRC, WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers
Beverly Dresen	WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers
Sue Ehler	WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers
Dixon Elder	WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers
Tammy Ennen	WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers
Stefphanie Fischer	Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Lin Folsom	WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers
Bob Freedman	WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers
Lyndon Greene	Anacortes Community Maritime Center
Pete Haase	WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers, REsources
Jan Hersey	WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers
Wayne Huseby	WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers
Pattie Hutchins	Friends of Skagit Beaches
Dixie Johnson	WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers
Jim Johnson	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
Peyton Kane	Trail Tales
Lynn Karns	WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers
Lindsay Logan	Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Raffi Manion	Anacortes Schools Foundation
Charlaine McGinnis-Brown	WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers
Dennis McMillan	WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers
Vicki McNeil	Anacortes Community Maritime Center
Elizabeth Oakes	City of Anacortes
Dan Penttila	Salish Sea Biological
Ruth Peterson	WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers
Erica Pickett	Skagit Marine Resources Committee, Friends of Skagit Beaches
Michele Pope	WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers
John Pope	All-around great guy
Elizabeth O'Berry Richards	WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers
Tom Richards	WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers
Karen Richman	WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers
Eric Shen	WSU Skagit Beach Watchers, Friends of Skagit Beaches
Caroline Spehar	WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers
Pat Steffani	WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers
Mae Tabor	WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers
Cary Tolman	Anacortes Community Maritime Center
Sheila Tomas	WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers
Richard Treston	Padilla Bay Estuarine Research Reserve
Regina Wandlin	Skagit Land Trust
Bob Weathers	WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers
Rebecca Williams	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group

Participating Organizations

Anacortes Boys' & Girls' Club
Anacortes High School Green Club
Anacortes Parks Foundation
Cayou Family Catering
City of Anacortes
City of Anacortes Water Department
Dr. Samuel G. Brooks Guild of Anacortes
Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve Citizens' Stewardship Committee
Friends of Skagit Beaches
Gere-A-Deli
Mad Hatter's Ice Cream
Mary Ann's Kitchen
Northwest Marine Mammal Stranding Network/ OrcaNet
Northwest Straits Foundation
Pacific Biodiversity Institute
Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Port of Anacortes
REsources
Salish Sea Biological
Samish Indian Nation
Shannon Point Marine Center
Skagit Conservation Education Alliance
Skagit County Marine Resources Committee
Skagit County Public Works/Water Quality
Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
Skagit Land Trust
Taylor Shellfish Farms
Trail Tales
Washington Environmental Council
Washington State Department of Natural Resources
WSU Extension Skagit County Beach Watchers