

# Fidalgo Bay Day 2017

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 via the Puget Sound Partnership and the Northwest Straits Commission under assistance agreement Grant SEANWS-2016-SkCoPW-00003 to Skagit County. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the United States 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 is the annual flagship public outreach event for the Skagit County Marine Resources Committee (Skagit MRC.) This was the 14<sup>th</sup> year and was again hosted at the Samish Indian Nation Fidalgo Bay Resort clubhouse. The purpose of this free annual event is to help increase public awareness of the marine environment and foster environmental stewardship. Visitors learn about the marine ecosystem and the plants and animals that live there. They also learn steps they can take to protect the waters of Fidalgo Bay and the larger Salish Sea. Even the presenters, tabling for a participating organization, have the opportunity to learn something new, network with people from other marine-related organizations, and eat wonderful seafood.

The event increases community awareness of the Skagit MRC, which devotes the majority of its resources toward less-visible projects, including marine nearshore monitoring, shoreline restoration projects, supporting the Salish Sea Stewards program, and educating shoreline land owners. Hundreds of visitors attend this event each year and more than 30 different organizations and businesses participate. Activities are varied from year to year and may include: interactive displays from the many participating organizations, children's art and science activities, marine life touch tank from Shannon Point Marine Center, beach seining demonstration with a marine biologist, beach walks to look for forage fish eggs, and free shellfish and chowder samples and a no-host traditional tribal salmon lunch.

For the fifth year in a row, the Skagit MRC collaborated with the Friends of Skagit Beaches who sponsored the "Discovery Passport" activity. The 2017 passport cover was selected from one of the entries in the coloring contest from last year's event. This year, 13 kids participated in the coloring contest to win a spot on the cover of the 2018 Discovery Passport. Out of the 203 passport booklets that were handed out this year, over 100 passports were completed and turned in for prizes. 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.

## **2017 Event Summary**

Fidalgo Bay Day was held Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup> at the Fidalgo Bay RV Resort in Anacortes from 11:00AM to 3:00PM. We had over 400 visitors with beautiful weather and scenery. 45 volunteers, 22 organizations, and six 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 Samish tribal members.







A group of people, including children and adults, are gathered around a blue table displaying several large, clear plastic tanks containing water and small aquatic life. A woman in a blue shirt and white cap is holding a sign that reads "4th GRADE" and "HARDY". The tanks are connected by white PVC pipes, suggesting a filtration or circulation system. The people are looking at the tanks with interest. In the background, there are parked cars and a blue tent, indicating an outdoor event.

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**Outdoor Activities:** Besides the passport stations, some also walked the beach searching for forage fish eggs or enjoyed just getting their feet wet. The great attraction was the traditional “beach seining” led by Matt Castle and Dan Penttila with help from many volunteers and most of the audience. Some looked for birds on the bay and others just enjoyed the celebration!



Other outdoor passport stations included Fidalgo Bay history, Intertidal Monitoring, and Whales.





**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 "tide pool rules" activity and two games (i.e. forage fish bean bag toss game and the stormwater golf game) as well as the Northwest Straits Initiative's "Catch More Crab" outreach campaign and proper crab trap rigging demonstration with biodegradable escape cords. There were also Birds of the Bay, Orca Whales, Watershed Functions, and many others. A full list of participating groups is included at the end of this report.



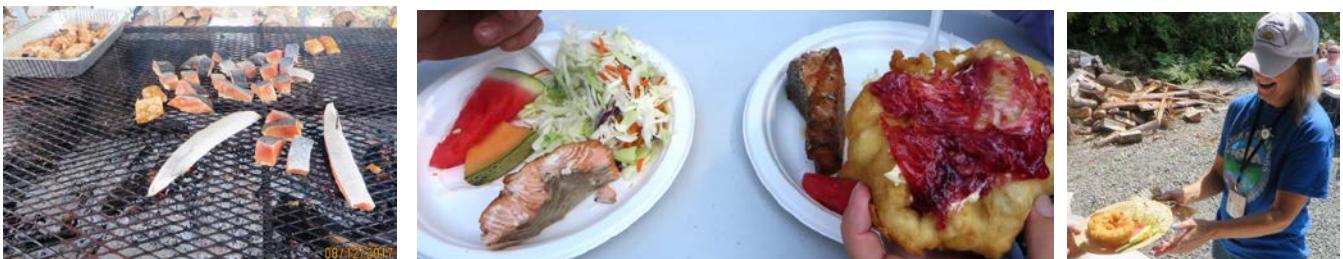
**Youth Craft Activities:** There were several kid-friendly craft activities including: face painting, mural coloring, luminary construction, fish prints on fabric, and notecard-making with marine critter stamps, stickers, and drawing supplies.



**Food – Chowder, Shellfish, Salmon, and more:** We borrowed the popcorn machine from the Anacortes Boys and Girls Club and gave away 130 bags of free popcorn. Support from our local restaurateurs was outstanding again this year. Three local establishments (Mary Ann’s Kitchen, Adrift Restaurant, and Johnny Picasso’s) each offered samples of some of the best clam chowder in the Northwest! And once again, Taylor Shellfish generously donated hundreds of dollars’ worth of delicious oysters and mussels. Volunteers prepared special sauces, steamed mussels, and grilled the oysters to perfection. Gere-A-Deli donated delicious brownies, always a crowd favorite.



Rosie Cayou-James and Bill Bailey and family offered a no host traditional Samish salmon luncheon of salmon grilled over an open fire, coleslaw salad, watermelon, and fresh fry bread.



**Samish Tribal Support and 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. 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. Skagit MRC grant funds were used to purchase compostable utensils, plates, coffee cups, and chowder cups.

**Evaluation:** 43 visitors participated in a short survey conducted by two of our volunteers. The purpose of the survey was to gather some metrics for the event, as well as qualitative information such as favorite activities and suggestions. The most favorite activities were the beach seining, touch tank, food, kid’s activities, and passports. For the question “What did you learn today”, the overwhelming response was “Lots”. 26 out of the 43 people interviewed, said that this was their first Fidalgo Bay Day.

**Volunteers:** This year, more than 45 people volunteered over 200 hours of their valuable time to make sure the event was educational and fun for all. In addition, twenty-two organizations contributed their time, expertise, and 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 9:00AM to help set up and several stayed until 4:00PM to clean up.

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

Administration and Event Promotion: Tracy Alker

Food: Gina Johnson and team

Shellfish: Paul Dinnel and team

Set up and more: Wayne Huseby

Kids' Activities: Team of many!

Parking: Morty Cohen

Beach Seine: Matt Castle and Dan Penttila

Passport Stations: Jen Herron and Betty Carteret

**Planning and Promotion:** There are several FBD planning documents and notes available upon request. These include: Kids' Activities (including supplies needed for,) Save the Date poster, half-sheet Promotional Postcards with location map, Survey, Event Timeline, and suggestions for 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, Facebook, newsletters, and email lists. Ads were also placed in the Skagit Valley Herald, the Anacortes American, and the Clam Digger. Local reporters were contacted and articles were in local papers. The "Over the street" banner in Anacortes was used during the week before, as was a road-side sign.





## 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, kitchen, grill, food handler permits
- Friends of Skagit Beaches provided insurance coverage for the facility, sandwich board signs, and passport activity and prizes
- The Puget Sound Shell Refinery provided funds used for a variety of expenses, including volunteer hats
- Complimentary seafood chowder was provided by 3 local restaurants (Adrift Restaurant, Johnny Picassos, and Mary Anne's Kitchen)
- Complimentary shellfish was provided by Taylor Shellfish
- The Anacortes Boys and Girls Club loaned the popcorn machine
- Gere-A-Deli donated free brownies
- Dan Penttila provided free scientific expertise identifying and presenting information about fish and other marine life during beach seining and forage fish spawning walks
- Over 200 volunteer hours were expended





## **2017 Participating Organizations**

**Adrift Restaurant**

**Anacortes Boys' & Girls Club**

**Cayou / Bailey Family**

**Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve Citizens' Stewardship Committee**

**Friends of Skagit Beaches**

**Gere-A-Deli**

**Johnny Picassos**

**Mary Ann's Kitchen**

**New Pilgrims Church**

**Northwest Straits Initiative**

**Orca Network**

**Pacific Biodiversity Institute**

**Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve**

**Salish Sea Biological**

**Salish Sea Stewards**

**Samish Indian Nation**

**Shell Puget Sound Refinery**

**Taylor Shellfish**

**Wa. Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Reserves Division**

**Wa. Department of Ecology**

**Wa. Sea Grant Crab Team**

**Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center**

**Skagit County Public Works**

**Skagit County Marine Resources Committee**

**Skagit Land Trust**

**Skagit Conservation District**

**Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group**

**Skagit Valley College**

**Coastal Volunteer Partnership at Padilla Bay**

**ReSources for Sustainable Communities**

**Deception Pass Park Foundation**

**Pacific Mammal Research**

**Shannon Point Marine Center**

**Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve Citizen Stewardship Committee**



(Photos: Karen Richman, Lee First, Pete Haase, SVHerald)



## **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Fidalgo Bay Day Poster
- B. "Save The Date" Card
- C. Passport Booklet
- D. Survey Form
- E. Survey Summary
- F. Article in the "Anacortes American"
- G. Article in the "Skagit Valley Herald"

# Fidalgo Bay Day

## Celebrate Our National Estuaries

### A Day of Free Family Fun!

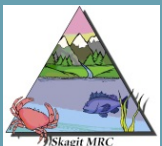
**Saturday August 12, 2017 11 AM — 3 PM**

**Fidalgo Bay Resort, 4701 Fidalgo Bay Road, Anacortes**



**EXPLORE ★ DISCOVER ★ CREATE ★ LEARN**

- \* Aquarium touch tank with live sea creatures to see and touch (*Shannon Point Marine Center*)
- \* Beach seining demonstration
- \* Indoor kid-friendly crafts, games, & interactive displays
- \* Celebrate National Estuaries Day with discovery stations along the Tommy Thompson trail (*Friends of Skagit Beaches*)
- \* Complimentary samples of local seafood (*Adrift, Johnny Picasso, Mary Ann's Kitchen, and Taylor Shellfish*)
- \* Samish No-host salmon BBQ



*Fidalgo Bay Day is an educational event of the Skagit Marine Resources Committee and is supported by many partners and volunteers. It is funded in part by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (via the Puget Sound Partnership)*

**For more information: [www.skagitmrc.org](http://www.skagitmrc.org)**





**SAVE THE DATE!**

# **FIDALGO BAY DAY & NATIONAL ESTUARIES DAY**

**SATURDAY - AUGUST 12, 2017 11AM-3PM**

**at the Fidalgo Bay Resort 4701 Fidalgo Bay Road, Anacortes**



Discovery Passport sponsored by:

*Friends of Skagit Beaches*

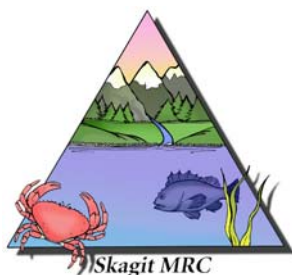


<http://skagitbeaches.org>  
email to friends@skagitbeaches.org

Thanks to these organizations who  
helped make it possible:



Puget Sound Refinery



Skagit MRC

## Fidalgo Bay Day 2017 Discovery Passport



Artwork by Elena Johnson

Discovery Passport sponsored by:

*Friends of Skagit Beaches*

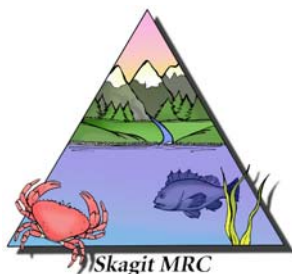


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## Fidalgo Bay Day 2017 Discovery Passport



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## Today's Activities

### Outside

- Visit passport stations
- Forage Fish Walk on the beach
- Beach Seining 12:30 PM at boat ramp
- Luminaire Parade 2:40 pm – Main Room

### Inside the Clubhouse & On Patio

- Visit passport stations
- Interactive Educational Displays
- Marine arts activities
- Color a section of the 48' mural

### Food

- Free popcorn & seafood samples on patio
- Free chowder samples – in kitchen
- Traditional Samish salmon lunch - \$10; located on the right/east side of Clubhouse



**If you had fun today, would like to get involved with the programs you learned about & work with the great volunteers you met, contact:**

**Samantha Russell**

Volunteer Programs Coordinator

[srussell@padillabay.gov](mailto:srussell@padillabay.gov)

360.428.1559

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## SAVE THE DATE!

**October 21, 2017**

NW Educational Services  
District Building  
1601 R Ave., Anacortes

FIDALGO SHORELINE ACADEMY sponsored by Friends of Skagit Beaches is designed to inspire you to care for and protect our local marine and shoreline environments. Registration begins in September.

**Free clock hours available for teachers.**

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

***THE EFFECTS OF WORLDWIDE DECLINE IN BIODIVERSITY***  
DR. PHOEBE BARNARD, PACIFIC BIODIVERSITY INSTITUTE

CHOOSE 3 MORE TOPICS FROM A LIST INCLUDING:

Invasive Green Crabs in PNW; Harmful Algae Blooms  
Rockfish – Can we save them? Threats to native bat species; Changing Shorelines of Fidalgo Bay, and more!

Find out more and sign up for our e-newsletter at the Friends website [www.skagitbeaches.org](http://www.skagitbeaches.org);  
Email us at [friends@skagitbeaches.org](mailto:friends@skagitbeaches.org)



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Find out more and sign up for our e-newsletter at the Friends website [www.skagitbeaches.org](http://www.skagitbeaches.org);  
Email us at [friends@skagitbeaches.org](mailto:friends@skagitbeaches.org)

## Discovery Passport Instructions:

Visit passport stations inside and outside, identified with flags, and talk with the table hosts. Answer the questions as you go to receive a sticker from each station.

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

## Coloring Contest

**Pick up a coloring contest sheet at  
Info table - Station #1.**

**The winning entry will appear on the  
cover of the 2018 Discovery Passport**

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## **Station 1**

### **Keeping Plastic out of the Ocean**

Kid Question: How long will it take for a plastic bottle floating in the ocean to break down?

Adult Question: How does plastic waste in our waterways harm wildlife?



## **Station 14**

### **Crabs**

Kid Question: Which animal is a crab related to?

- A. Barnacles
- B. Rockfish

Adult Question: Estimate how many crab pots are lost in the Puget Sound each year.



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## **Station 13**

### **Tide Pool Rules**

Kid Question: Name three things that you can do to protect the critters living in tide pools.

Adult Question: How do slow moving animals like limpets and chitons avoid drying out during low tide?

Bonus question: why are giant green anemones green?

**Sponsored by**



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## **Station 2**

### **Anacortes History Station**

Kid Question: Native tribes, Samish and Swinomish, were the first people who lived on Fidalgo Bay. There were no grocery stores or refrigerators, so what did they eat and how did they preserve their food to eat during the winter?

Adult Question: Fishing was an important early business in Anacortes. Many immigrants moved here because fishing provided a good livelihood. What are two countries that they came from?

**Sponsored by Friends of Skagit Beaches**



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### **Station 3**

## **Shorebirds Habitat and Threats**

Kid Question: Which animals are dangerous to shorebirds and their eggs?

- A. Foxes
- B. Raptors
- C. Snakes
- D. All of these

Adult Question: What are two of the threats to Shorebirds?



**Sponsored by**  
**New Pilgrim Community**

### **Station 12**

## **Intertidal Monitoring Demo**

Kid Question: Name three animals we find during intertidal monitoring.

Adult Question: Why is it important to measure the presence and absence of species over time?



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## **Station 11**

### **Forage Fish Interpretation**

Kid Question: Forage Fish are:

- A. Small and silver
- B. Travel in schools
- C. At the bottom of the food chain
- D. All of the above

Adult Question: In order to survive on the beach until they hatch, surf smelt eggs require the following:

- A. Pebbly Beach
- B. Shade
- C. Armoring
- D. Eel grass and driftwood

**Sponsored by Friends of Skagit Beaches**



## **Station 11**

### **Forage Fish Interpretation**

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**Sponsored by Friends of Skagit Beaches**



## **Station 4**

### **Touch Tank**

Kid Question: Point out the eyes of the sea star.

Adult Question: Give one scientific name for one animal in the marine exhibit.

**Sponsored by Shannon Point Marine Center of Western Washington University**



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**Station 5**  
**Gracie the Whale**

Kid Question: Are gray whales mammals?

Adult Question: How do gray whales feed?

Sponsored by



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Sponsored by



**Station 10**  
**Forage Fish – Aquatic Reserves**

Kid Question: What month are most surf smelt eggs found in Fidalgo Bay?

Adult Question: How are forage fish an indicator for the health of Puget Sound?

Sponsored by



**Station 10**  
**Forage Fish – Aquatic Reserves**

Kid Question: What month are most surf smelt eggs found in Fidalgo Bay?

Adult Question: How are forage fish an indicator for the health of Puget Sound?

Sponsored by



## **Station 9**

### **Forage Fish and Eelgrass**

Kid Question: Why do forage fish need eelgrass?

Adult Question: Why are forage fish important to Salmon?



**Sponsored by**  
**Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group**

## **Station 6**

### **Marine Microscope**

Kid Question: What body parts do barnacles use to feed?

Adult Question: How do barnacles stick to rocks, shells and other things?



**Sponsored by**

***Padilla Bay***  
National Estuarine Research Reserve

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## **Station 7**

### **Birds on the Bay**

Kid Question: Which bird seen around Fidalgo Bay can grow to 4 feet and weighs less than 5 pounds?

Adult Question: Name the diving bird seen on the bay that has bright orange feet.



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## **Station 8**

### **Southern Resident Orcas**

Kid Question: What is the favorite food for the southern resident orcas?

Adult Question: Why are the southern resident orcas endangered while transient orcas are increasing in numbers.



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## **Fidalgo Bay Day 2017 Evaluation “Interview” Questions**

**What did you learn today?**

**Is this your first Fidalgo Bay Day?   YES \_\_\_\_\_   NO \_\_\_\_\_**

**What did you like best?**

**Ideas for things to change for another year**

**Where are you from? (City or area)**

**Other comments**

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## **Fidalgo Bay Day 2017 Evaluation “Interview” Questions**

### **Summary of 43 interviews.**

What did you learn today? **“Lots” was the overwhelming response. The variety of organizations caring for the marine environment was also mentioned. Numerous individual items – like “A flatfish has two eyes on the top.” were also called out.**

Is this your first Fidalgo Bay Day? YES **\_26\_\_** NO **\_15\_\_**

What did you like best? **Beach seine, touch tank, food, kids activities, and passports were mentioned numerous times.**

Ideas for things to change for another year. **Most people were very happy with it as is. More seafood (we think our servings were too large and so we ran out too soon) and some more Native American activities were mentioned a very few times,**

Where are you from? (City or area) Local = 24, state = 8, out of state = 8. (Anacortes = 16.)

Other comments. **Outrageous food, amazing event, wonderful and loved it.**

### **Note:**

We also collect feedback from volunteers and display participants and some of that will help us make some minor changes in the future.



BRIANA ALZOLA / ANACORTES AMERICAN

Van Dyk while putting up a mural of the Yankee Doodle on the side of the building on Commercial Ave.

## Mural finds new home

paint the side of the building as the background for the mural and put up a wooden border to make the mural look like a stamp.

"This will be the only 24-foot stamp in town," Mitchell joked.

The mural was first sponsored by the Kasch family and featured, among others, both Capt. Bill Kasch and his wife Adelaide. The Kasches ran the first mail and passenger services to the San Juan Islands. It also connected Anacortes to Bellingham in the early 1900s.

The Yankee Doodle and its crew has plenty of stories, Mitchell said, including racing other boats and getting stuck when the tide was out.

Putting up the mural at its new location has been a lot of work, Mitchell said. Because of the siding on the building, he had

to create small pieces of wood to insert in grooves to make sure the whole picture was flat. Each piece of the plywood had to be primed to make sure it didn't swell or rot and then everything had to be painted white.

Once that was done, the background of sky and water could be started before the actual mural of the boat and its passengers could be attached to the wall, Mitchell said.

The mural is located high on the wall, so much of the work was done using Mitchell's Anacortes Mural Project truck. Ladders still had to be used for the mural, which is about 24 feet wide and 12 feet tall, he said.

The piece is part of the Anacortes Mural Project, which features about 160 murals located all around Anacortes. The project got started in 1984, Mitchell said.

## Fidalgo Bay Day brings awareness to marine life



PHOTOS BY ALEX HALVERSON / ANACORTES AMERICAN

Above: Nets are used to bring in sea creatures living close to the shore. The animals are transported in water into totes for attendees to observe. Sometimes the catch is small, but if you ask the Fidalgo Bay Day workers, it's a great opportunity to show all the life that lives so close to the beach. Below: Shannon Point Marine Center's Everitt Merritt informs any child or adult who comes by of the various creatures that were found 70 to 80 feet below the ocean's surface. The touch tanks were full of sea cucumbers, stars, urchins and anemones.





# Fidalgo Bay Day

By Skagit Valley Herald staff Aug 13, 2017 (0)



Visitors and volunteers sample the near-shore aquatic life in Fidalgo Bay tha  
Scott Terrell / Skagit Valley Herald

Fidalgo Bay Day on Saturday at the Samish Indian Nation's Fidalgo Bay Resort featured exhibits, activities for children and adults, as well as food samples and salmon cooked by Samish Indian Nation members. Featured activities included a sea creature touch tank from Shannon Point Marine Center, a beach-seining demonstration and a skull from a gray whale on exhibit.