

STATE OF THE BAY

RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

JANUARY 22, 2015 • BELLINGHAM, WA



Bringing together researchers, managers, and interested citizens to broaden our understanding of this vital resource and explore opportunities to enhance communication and coordination to protect the Bellingham Bay for future generations.

<http://whatcom.wsu.edu/nr/sotb>

PROGRAM

AGENDA

8:00 - 8:30

Registration

8:30 - 8:50

Welcome and Overview of Day

Lummi Tribal Welcoming

Sue Blake, WSU Extension/Washington Sea Grant

Event Host: Steve Hollenhorst, Dean Huxley College

Kelli Linville, Mayor – City of Bellingham; Jack Louws, County Executive - Whatcom County

8:50- 9:05

Bellingham Bay - Yesterday and Today

Bert Webber, Emeritus Faculty Huxley College - Western Washington University

9:05– 10:00

Key Issues, Challenges, & Research Needs - Local Government Perspective

Facilitator: Carl Weimer, Whatcom County Council

Panelists: Jon Hutchings, City of Bellingham; Mike Hogan, Port of Bellingham; Gary Stoyka, Whatcom County; Randy Kinley, Lummi Nation

Panelist Questions:

- *What value/responsibility does your jurisdiction have associated with Bellingham Bay?*
- *What are the key issues and challenges you face?*
- *What are the information/research needs/gaps that you would like to see addressed?*

10:00 - 10:30

Break

10:30 - 11:45

Physical Processes

Overview of key physical processes that set the foundation for water/sediment chemistry and biological ecosystems including highlights of current research and priority data gaps.

Facilitator: Eric Grossman, U. S. Geological Survey

Speakers:

- Seafloor Mapping and Sediment Transport Studies of Dynamic Historic Change Across the Nooksack River Delta, Eric Grossman, U.S. Geological Survey
- Circulation Model for Bellingham Bay, Tarang Khangaonkar, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
- Shoreline Change and Nearshore Enhancement Opportunities in Bellingham Bay, Jim Johannessen, Coastal Geologic Services, Inc.
- Nitrogen, Sediment and Other Nutrient Loading into Bellingham Bay from the Nooksack River, Mark von Prause, Washington Department of Ecology - Marine Monitoring Unit

11:45 - 12:30

Lunch

12:30 - 1:45

Chemistry and Water Quality

Overview of sediment and water quality conditions and implications for biological systems including highlights of current research and data gaps.

Facilitator: Christopher Krembs, Department of Ecology

Speakers:

- Sediment Quality in Bellingham Bay - Decadal Trends and Current Patterns, Valerie Partridge, Washington Department of Ecology - Marine Monitoring Unit
- Fecal Coliform & Enterococcus in Bellingham Bay, Jean Snyder, State Department of Health
- Stormwater Data Characterization: Results from Phase I Monitoring 2007 - 2012, Brandi Lubliner, Washington Department of Ecology

1:45 - 3:00

Biological Ecosystems

Overview of marine food web including relationship to physical & chemical systems & data gaps.

Facilitator: Jude Apple, WWU Shannon Point

Speakers:

- Seagrass in Portage Bay, Marco Hatch, Director - National Indian Center for Marine Environmental Research and Education
- Sea Star Wasting Disease in Bellingham Bay and the Salish Sea, Ben Miner, Marine Ecologist - Western Washington University
- Juvenile Chinook Salmon Assessment of the Nooksack Estuary and Bellingham Bay Nearshore, Eric Beamer, Skagit River Cooperative

3:00 - 3:30

Break

3:30 - 4:00

Regional Research Perspective - Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Gaps

Ken Dzinbal, Senior Monitoring Program Coordinator - Puget Sound Partnership

4:00 - 4:40

Combined Perspective - What do We Need to Know & How to Prioritize with Limited Funding?

Facilitator: Jon Hutchings, City of Bellingham

Panelists: Eric Grossman, USGS; Christopher Krembs, Department of Ecology; Jude Apple, WWU Shannon Point; Carl Weimer, Whatcom County Council; Ken Dzinbal, Puget Sound Partnership; Randy Kinley, Lummi Nation

Panelists Questions:

- *Based on all the perspectives you have heard today, what do you consider the priority information and research needs that are not being met?*
- *Do you have any recommendations for how to more effectively identify information needs, prioritize & coordinate research activities, and develop support and capacity to address needs?*

4:40 - 5:10

On-going Communication & Collaboration - Overview of Opportunities & Recommendations

Sue Blake, WSU Extension/Washington Sea Grant; Austin Rose, Whatcom County Marine Resource Committee

5:10 - 5:15

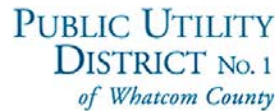
Closing

5:15 - 6:30

Poster Session, Beer Social

Conference Sponsors

The Planning Committee would like to thank the following sponsors for their support for the conference:



Planning Committee

(listed in alphabetical order)

- Jude Apple, WWU Shannon Point
- Sue Blake, WSU Extension/Washington Sea Grant, Committee Chair
- Alan Chapman, Lummi Natural Resources
- Charlotte Clausingjose
- Taylor Garrod, RE Sources
- Nicole Gilmore, Taylor Shellfish
- Pete Granger, Washington Sea Grant
- Eric Grossman, United States Geological Survey
- Elizabeth Kilanowski, Raincoast GeoResearch
- Renee LaCroix, City of Bellingham
- Becky Peterson, WSU Extension
- Austin Rose, Whatcom County Marine Resources Committee
- Bert Webber, Emeritus Huxley College, Western Washington University

Another Public Speaker Series Event coordinated by:

