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Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference

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Community forage fish habitat restoration in the San Juans

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Community Forage Fish Habitat Restoration in the San Juan Islands



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Andrew Reding



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Friends *of the*
San Juans

*Protecting and restoring the San Juan Islands
and the Salish Sea for people and nature*

Community Forage Fish Habitat Restoration in the San Juan Islands



Blind Bay forage fish habitat restoration project



Community engagement



Waterfront property owner engagement



Sea Level Rise Adaptation



Lessons Learned

Blind Bay Project Site

Project Partners:

Friends of the San Juans
Coastal Geologic Services
WA Conservation Corps
Shaw Island School
Private landowners
Private contractors

Funders:

WA State Salmon Recovery
Funding Board,
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service,
WDFW ALEA,
Friends members



Blind Bay forage fish habitat project

Year-round surf smelt site

Highly visible location

Private ownership

Public road

1 mechanical & 1 hand
removal site separated by
reference site

Extensive pre project data

BEFORE- hand removal site



BEFORE- mechanical removal site



Blind Bay Project Methods - mechanical site

400 linear feet of shoreline treated

> 160 cubic yards of quarry spall removed from the intertidal beach/spawn zone (+4 to +9 MLLW)

200 cubic yards of 'fish mix' nourishment added

Site access via barge

Private contractors



Blind Bay Project Methods- hand removal

200 linear ft. of shoreline

Surficial quarry spalls

Hand removal of 7 cy into large bags

Excavator removal of filled bags from the road

No nourishment

WA Conservation Corps, youth & community labor

Kids monitoring pre/post



Community Engagement

VIDEOS



OUTREACH

EVENTS



WORK PARTIES



Landowner Engagement

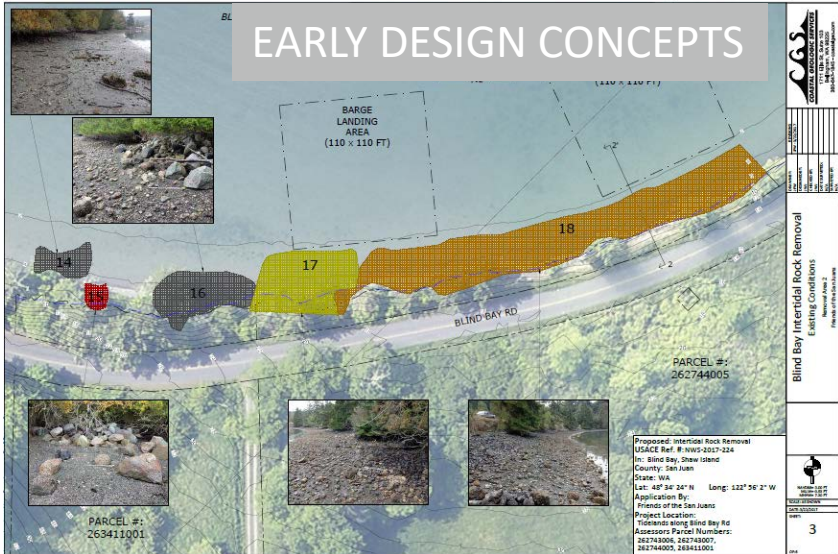
MAILINGS



Living with the Shoreline A stewardship guide for property owners in the San Juan Islands



SITE VISITS



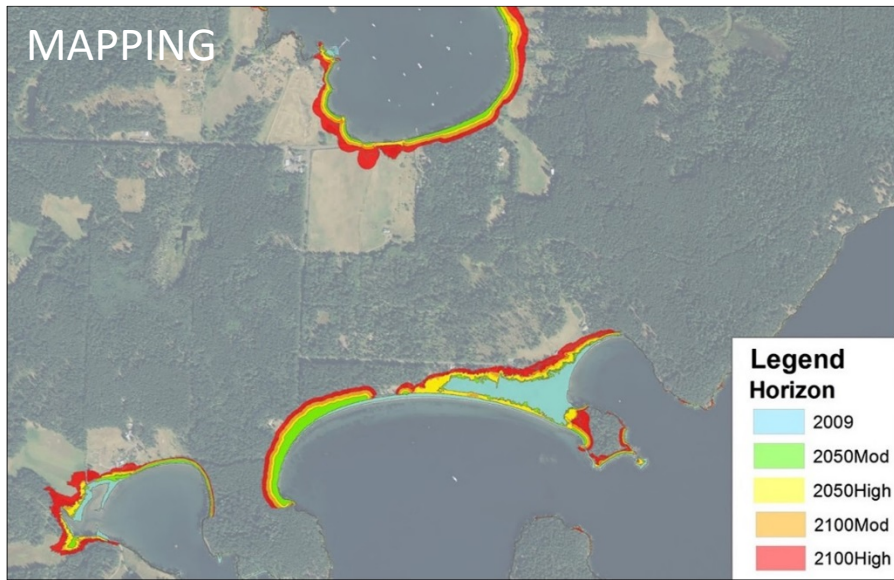
Special Invitation...

EVENTS



Sea Level Rise Adaptation

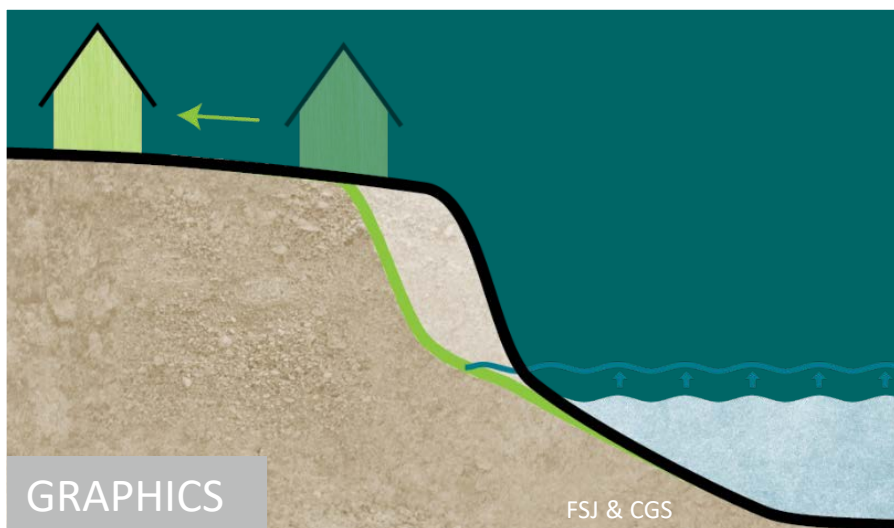
MAPPING



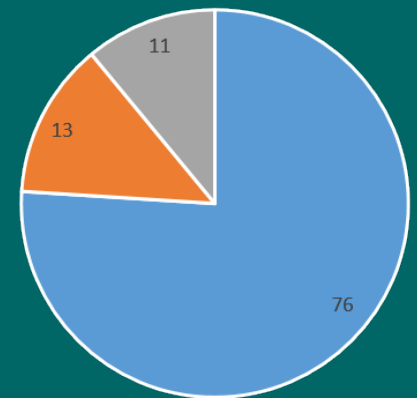
WORKSHOPS



GRAPHICS



Do you think sea level rise will affect your community in the next 50 years?



SURVEYS

■ yes ■ no ■ Don't know

Blind Bay Project Preliminary Results

10,000 square feet of surf smelt spawning habitat unburied.

Incubating eggs documented at the nourished site for the first time in over 10 years within 2 months of project completion.

New landowner interest.

Extensive pre monitoring data, post monitoring continues....



Lessons Learned

It's all about relationships, not science

Programs need to be consistent and long lasting

Neighborhood scale

Youth get adults involved

Small projects can = large impacts

Working with landowners takes a lot of time

It helps if you have 'something' for everyone- protection, restoration, education, research,....



Thanks! Questions?

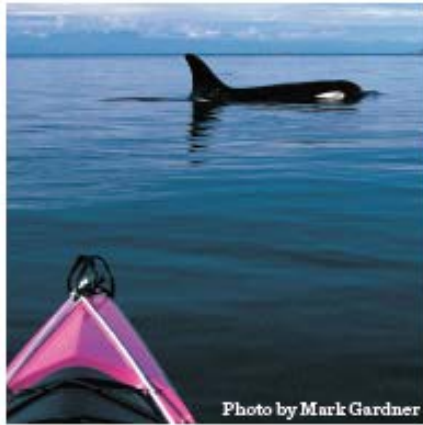


Photo by Mark Gardner



Photo by Katie Fleming



Photo by Andrew Reding



Photo by Mark Gardner

ORCA

need

SALMON

need

**FORAGE
FISH**

need

**HEALTHY
SHORELINES**

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Friends *of the*
San Juans