



Western Washington University  
**Western CEDAR**

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Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference

2022 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference  
(Online)


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Apr 27th, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

## Bringing Virtual Reality to the Classroom: Friends of the San Juans Immersive Education Program

Jess Newley

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Newley, Jess, "Bringing Virtual Reality to the Classroom: Friends of the San Juans Immersive Education Program" (2022). *Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference*. 248.  
<https://cedar.wvu.edu/ssec/2022ssec/allsessions/248>

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The background is a dark, gradient grey. It is decorated with numerous realistic water droplets of various sizes. Some droplets are large and prominent, while others are small and scattered. They are primarily located in the top-left and bottom-right corners, with a few smaller ones in the center and top-right areas. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

# IMMERSIVE SALISH SEA EDUCATION PROGRAM

JESS NEWLEY

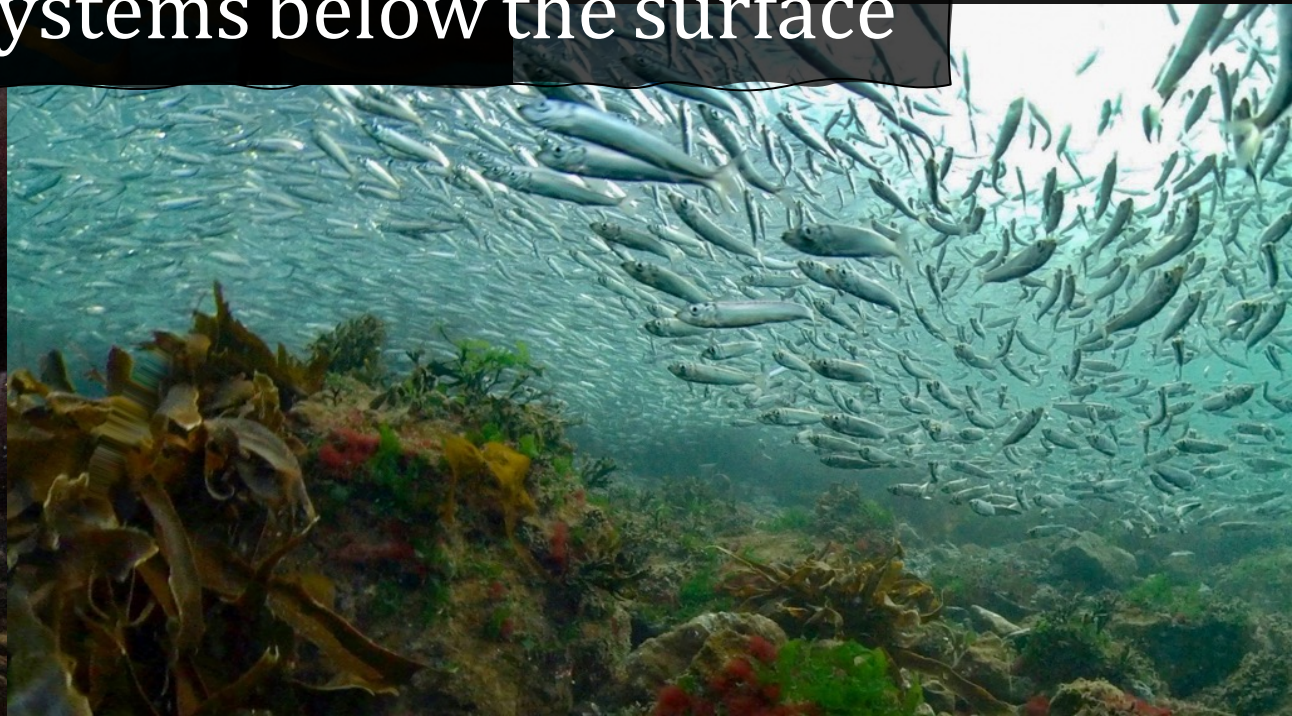
COMMUNITY SCIENCE & EDUCATION MANAGER

FRIENDS OF THE SAN JUANS





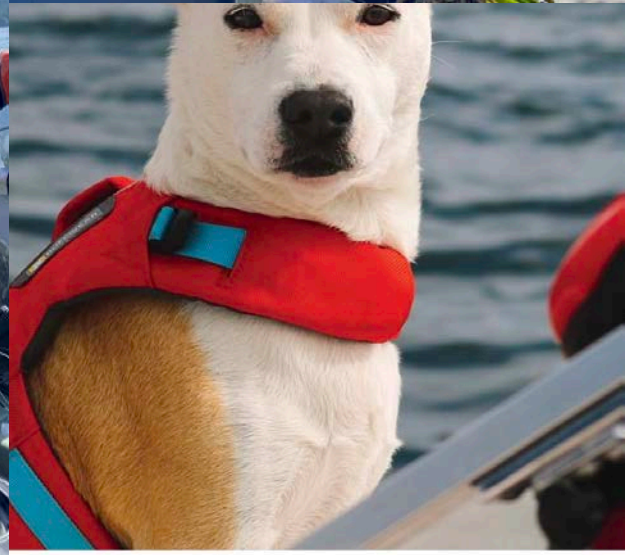
Our wild and dynamic systems below the surface







And the scientists working to save them





# IMMERSIVE EDUCATION COMPONENTS

STORYTELLING

MARINE  
FOOD WEB

VR  
EXPERIENCE

COMMUNITY  
ACTION  
PROJECT









SCAN ME



6:12



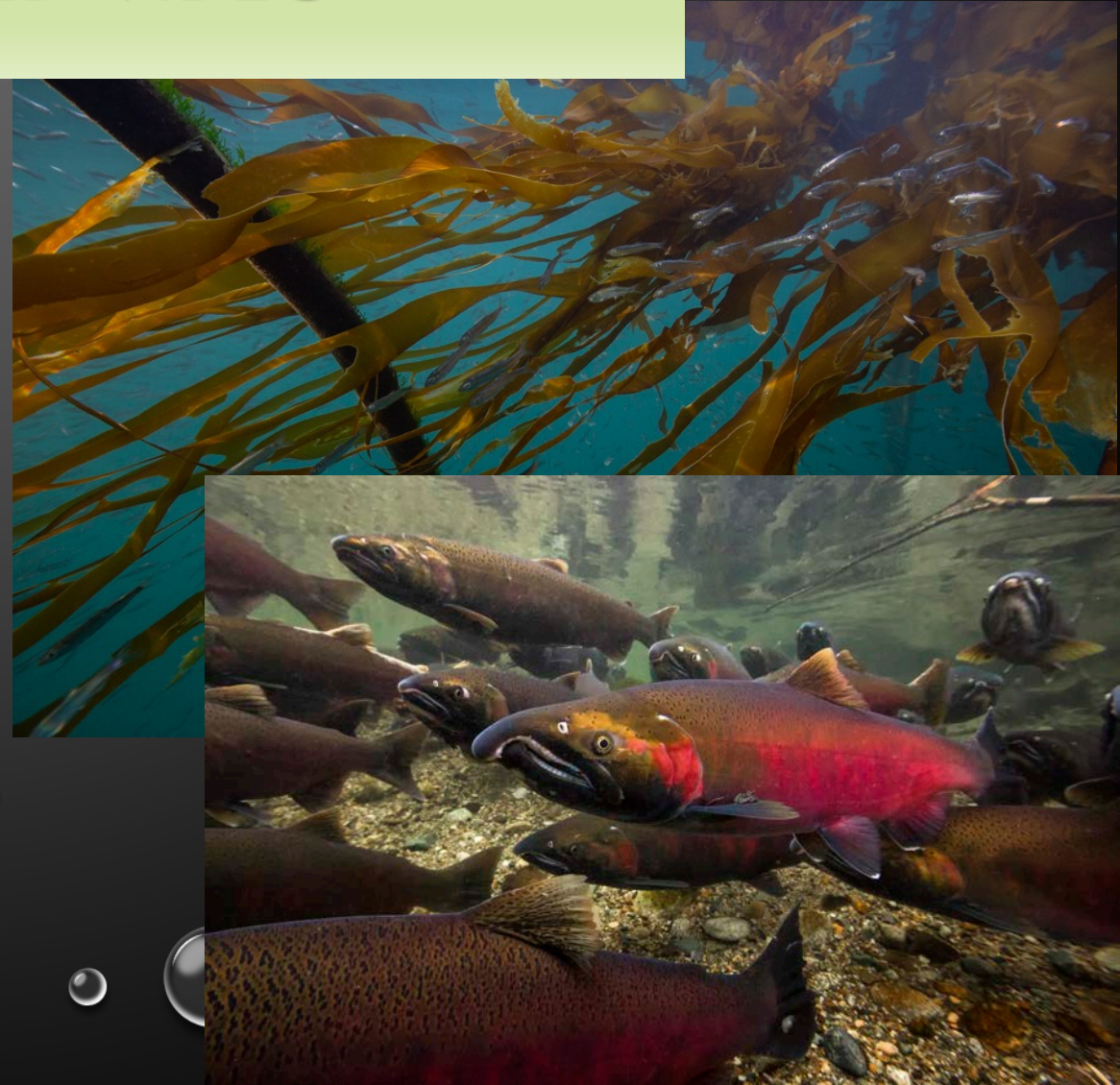
## Shorelines and Salmon: Friends of the San Juans Immersive Educa... :

Friends of the San Juans · 298 views · 1 week ago

# SHORELINES AND SALMON – IMMERSIVE ED VIDEO

## GOALS:

- TO DEEPEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMPLEXITY OF OUR MARINE SHORELINES AND THEIR CONNECTION WITH FORAGE FISH, SALMON, ORCAS AND HUMANS.
- AWE AND INSPIRE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO BECOME STEWARDS OF THEIR SHORELINES WHILE BEING EXPOSED TO CAREERS IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND CONSERVATION.







## 360 on YouTube

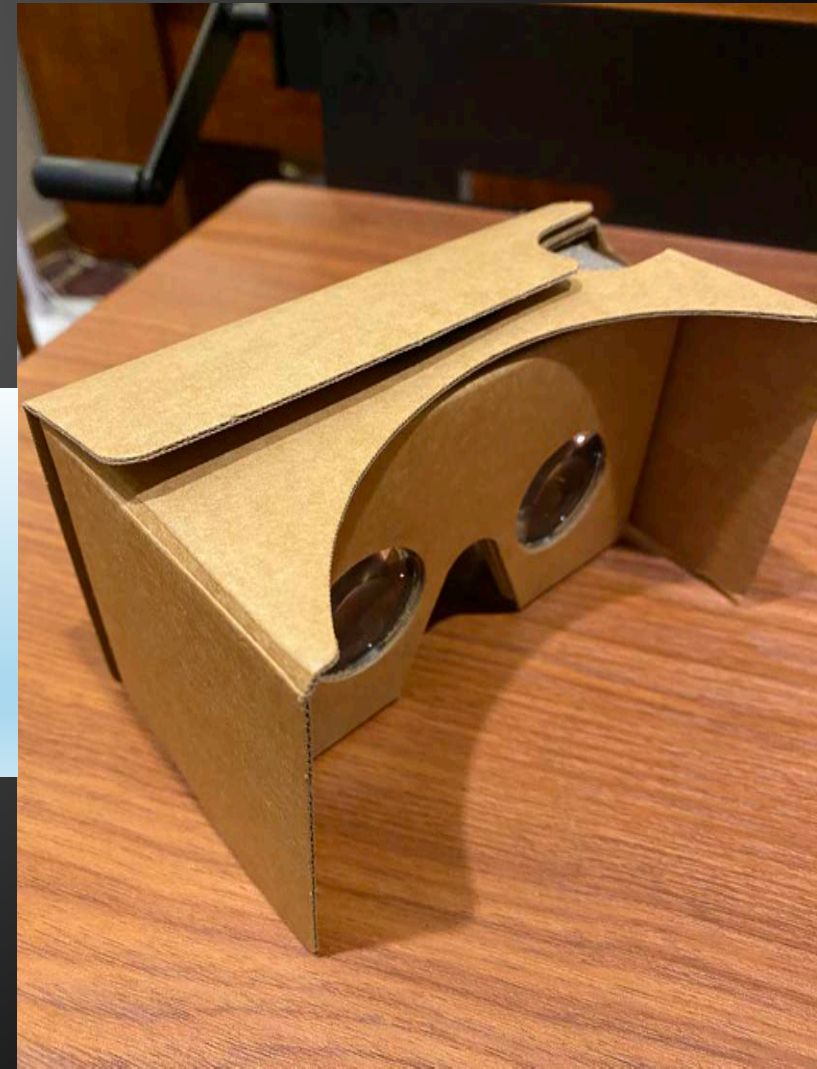
- cell phone
- tablet
- computer screen

## Google Cardboard Headsets

- Step up into VR
- Need cell phone
- \$10-\$15
- STEM
- Covid Friendly

## Oculus Quest 2

- or others!
- pre loaded w/ video
- Full immersive experience










# VIRTUAL REALITY TECHNOLOGY + EDUCATION

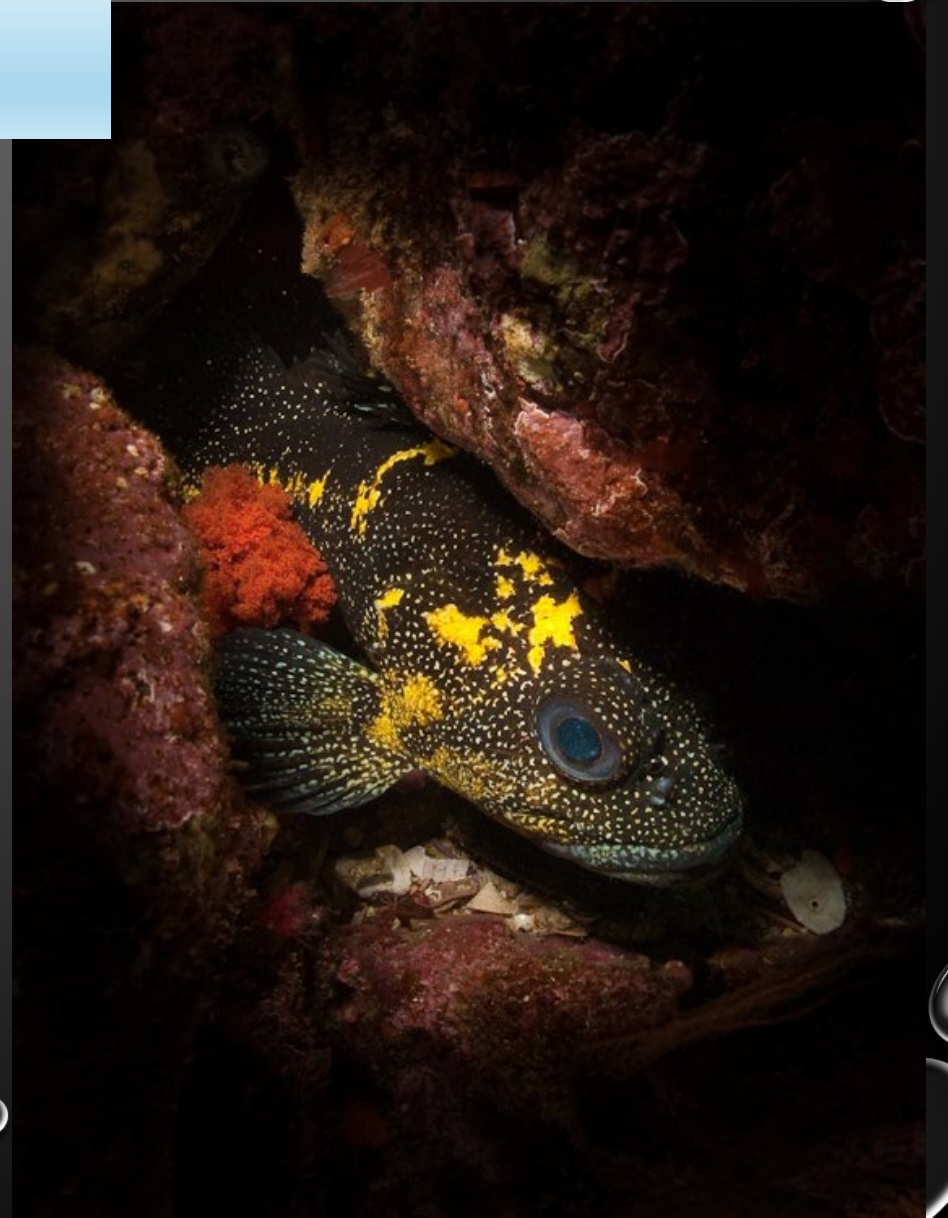
- TECH IS BECOMING MORE AFFORDABLE TO CONSUMERS
- PANDEMIC HAS SKYROCKETED THE USE OF VR
- EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION TOOL
  - IMPRINTS ON MIND + HEART = RETENTION!
  - RELEVANCY
  - EXPOSURE
  - TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCES





# BARRIERS

- HIGH TECH, HARD TO TRAIN OTHERS TO ADMINISTER
- BEACHES AND VR GEAR = 
- CARDBOARD IS A GREAT SOLUTION TO EXPANSION
  - BUT REQUIRES CELL PHONES + INTERNET





# ACCESSIBILITY

- GOING UNDERWATER IS PRIVILEGE!
  - GEAR
  - SAFETY
  - COSTS
  - TIME
- ALL STUDENTS GET TO EXPERIENCE IT EASILY AND SAFELY
- HITS MANY DIFFERENT LEARNING STYLES
- ENGAGES STUDENTS NEW WAY
- FUN!





“WOW, I ACTUALLY CARE NOW!”  
-8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENT FROM COLORADO





# PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

- MORE MODULES!
  - ORCA RESEARCH
  - SEA STARS AT FRIDAY HARBOR LABS
  - OTHERS?
- EXPANSION TO SALISH SEA REGION
- PARTNERSHIPS WITH UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES
- TEACHER TRAININGS
- CREATE CURRICULUM PACKAGE





THANK YOU!

Questions?

Ideas?

Feedback?

Please email [jess@sanjuans.org](mailto:jess@sanjuans.org) !

