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Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference

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Community Science In the Salish Sea: Intertidal Monitoring in the Cherry Point and Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserves

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RE Sources

Eleanor Hines
RE Sources

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Community Science In the Salish Sea: Intertidal Monitoring in the Cherry Point and Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserves

Rondi Nordal, Eleanor Hines - RE Sources



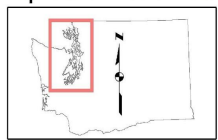
Introduction

Community science is when members of the community volunteer their time to support scientific monitoring.

Our work takes place within the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Aquatic Reserves network focused on Cherry Point and Fidalgo Bay.

Community science has many benefits including learning opportunities for staff and volunteers, saving time and money, and filling data gaps.

Washington State Aquatic Reserves



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Our Program

- Annual recruitment period
- Annual refresher training
- Multiples levels of staff QA/QC
- Community science appropriate methods
- Reliant on expert naturalists

Why involve volunteers?



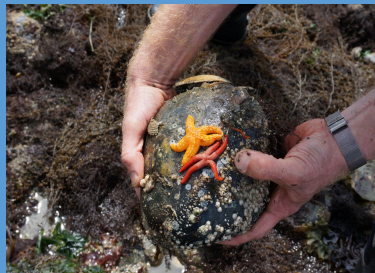
There's a lot to cover during surveys. On average we have 8 volunteers helping for 5 hours per survey. That saves 40 hours per survey in paid staff time.



Surveys require up to 50 lbs of equipment, including items that are awkward to carry. Having more folks at a survey helps distribute the load. This is especially important for sites far from access points.



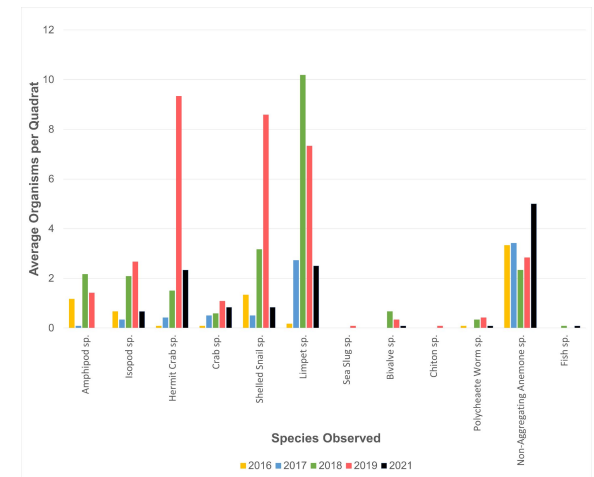
Our lead naturalist volunteers are experts at species identification. They can help both staff and other volunteers learn about beach ecology and species identification tips.



It's a great way to get people outside, bring them into the scientific process, and educate them about the value of environmental protection. It's a gateway to advocacy.

Outcomes

- Many volunteers return each year
- Increased capacity at surveys
- Opportunities for supporters to learn about where their money goes
- Nearly 10 years of continuous data at some sites



Acknowledgments

We would not be able to run our intertidal monitoring program without the help of volunteers. Thank you to everyone who has participated since monitoring began in 2013.

Contact: rondin@re-sources.org
For more information: shorturl.at/dfouE