



North Olympic Group Newsletter

P.O. Box 714 Carlsborg, WA 98324

northolympicgroupsc@gmail.com

<http://www.sierraclub.org/washington/north-olympic>

Jan - Feb 2018

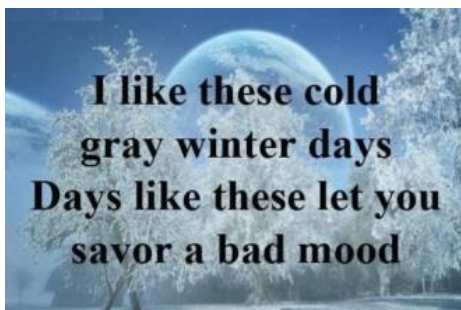


In This Issue

Salmon Net Pen Updates _____	1
Marbled Murrelet Updates _____	2
What Were We Up To In 2017 _____	3
CWI Events, Pleasant Harbor Update ____	4
Plastic Bags Ordinance, PT March _____	5
Vancouver Oil Terminal Hearing _____	6
EPA Report Card _____	7
Grand Canyon Mining, NOG Events _____	8
Winter Reading, People's Hearing _____	9

Meetings & Events

- Jan 4** – “Our Plastic Planet”, 12:35 PM, Peninsula College Little Theater, Pg 5
- Jan 4** – “Bag It” movie, 7:00 PM, Peninsula College, Maier Hall, Pg 5
- Jan 11** – Excom meeting, 2 - 4 PM, Sequim Library
- Jan 16** – Jefferson Cty. BOCC meeting on Pleasant Harbor Resort, Pg 4
- Jan 20** – Women’s March, Port Townsend Pg 5
- Feb 5** – “Talking Fish”, Barhop Brewery, Port Angeles, 6:00 PM, Pg 4
- Feb 6** – Beach seining with CWI, Place Road access site, 8:00 AM, Pg 4
- Feb 6** – Reusable Bag Ordinance presented to Port Angeles City Council Mtg., 6:00 PM, Pg 4
- Feb 20** – Reusable Bag Ordinance public comment at Port Angeles City Council Mtg., 6:00 PM, Pg 4



ATLANTIC SALMON NET PEN UPDATES

“Something has to happen sooner with the breeding of invasive species in our waters. We can’t afford to wait until the leases are up. The Salish Sea is at a tipping point already.”

Lummi Nation Chairman Jay Julius (Dec. 2017)

DNR: Hilary Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands for the Department of Natural Resources, announced her intention to terminate Cooke Aquaculture’s Atlantic salmon net pen lease in Port Angeles harbor. This is due to concerns over the placement of the pens and poor maintenance of the net pens. According to Commissioner Franz, the pens present environmental and navigational hazards. Cooke Aquaculture will be required to remove the unsafe and illegal net pen from Port Angeles harbor.

There are eight other Atlantic salmon net pens in the Salish Sea. Hopefully, DNR will also do a careful inspection of these. We encourage you to write a thank you to Hilary Franz via email at hilary.franz@dnr.wa.gov .

WHERE ARE THE SALMON: After the escapement, Atlantic salmon were found as far away as British Columbia and the State of Oregon. More than three months later, Atlantic salmon are being caught about 40 miles up the Skagit River, Washington’s most important salmon and steelhead bearing river. This news, after industry, media, and a state agency claimed that all escaped Atlantic salmon have died off and cause no harm to our local ecosystems.

Upper Skagit Indian Tribe Natural Resources Director Scott Schuyler said *“Virtually every time we have done work in the river we have encountered Atlantics along the way.”* Tribes and others are anxious about how the Atlantic salmon will affect the already imperiled wild Pacific salmon in the river.

LAWSUIT: On November 13, the Wild Fish Conservancy filed a lawsuit against Cooke Aquaculture over the Cypress Island net pen collapse and the escapement. According to the lawsuit complaint, *“No agency, including EPA and Ecology, has commenced any action constituting diligent prosecution to redress these violations.”*

MORE INFO: NOG’s James Loran has compiled on Facebook a list of articles on salmon net pens.

<https://www.facebook.com/netpenaquaculture/>

“The sea lives in every one of us.”

Robert Wyland

Group Executive Committee

We are governed by seven volunteers, with help from our conservation committees and interested members.

To contact Excom members or for more information, email them at:

northolympicgroupsc@gmail.com

Meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of each month alternating between Sequim and Port Townsend.

All Sierra Club members are welcome to attend.



Officers:

Chair: Janet Marx

Vice Chair: Darlene Schanfald

Secretary: Bill Volmut

Treasurer: Genie Mixson

Executive Committee:

Norm Baker

Cherri Mann

Janet Marx

Genie Mixson

Darlene Schanfald

Bob Sextro

Bill Volmut

Newsletter Editors – Janet Marx
and Genie Mixson

Janetmarx_76@msn.com

Complaints, suggestions, and opinions are always welcome

MARBLED MURRELET UPDATE

The North Olympic Group supports a “Conservation Alternative” that allows the Marbled Murrelet population to recover numbers through habitat preservation.

During the November 7th Board of Natural Resources (BNR) meeting, the BNR chose their preferred alternative for the Marbled Murrelet Long-term Conservation Strategy (MMLTCS).

Unfortunately, the board voted 5-1 to approve the staff proposed alternative, which is a modified version of Alternative D. This plan does not preserve enough older forest habitats to stabilize the declining Marbled Murrelet population. Bill Peach, Clallam County Commissioner and BNR Vice-Chair representing timber interests, was the lone “no” vote. He voted for Alternative B, which is even less protective than the staff proposed alternative.

The Marbled Murrelet Coalition had put forward a Conservation Alternative that used the best available science that would allow the Marbled Murrelet populations to stabilize. There was support by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Environmental Protection Agency to analyze the Conservation Alternative after the comment period in July. Although the BNR did not choose this plan, the coalition will continue to push back on DNR and BNR as the process continues.

The Marbled Murrelet Coalition members are hopeful that they can encourage Hilary Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands, and the board to move toward a science-based conservation strategy, one that preserves more habitats for the Murrelet. However, to achieve that outcome, there are still a few hurdles to get over:

1. State trust mandate: This statute requires that the DNR manage state lands for the benefit of the trust beneficiaries. DNR emphasizes that this limits the amount of conservation they can provide for murrelets.
2. Pressure from rural counties: County commissioners, especially in Southwest Washington, have made repeated pleas for more logging on state lands to support their economies.
3. Pressure from legislators: It was surprising to learn that a number of legislators, including Democrats, supported Alternative B. Read the newspaper article [here](#).
4. Threats to the Endangered Species Act: Our current administration is no friend to the environment.

Hilary Franz is convening a group of stakeholders for her “Solutions Table” to work through some of these issues.



WHAT WERE WE UP TO IN 2017?

Janet Marx, Excom Chair

Thank you, members, for your support over the past year. It's what keeps us going. Sometimes we Executive Committee (Excom) members get so busy we forget to let you know what we're up to. The beginning of a new year is a good time to give you a wrap-up of our activities in 2017.

This past year we were busy educating ourselves, writing letters, sponsoring public forums and making public comment at government hearings on the following issues and activities.

- Clallam County repeal of their roadside spraying ban
- Navy Plans affecting the North Olympic Peninsula
- Clallam County Trust Lands Advisory Committee
- DNR Marbled Murrelet Conservation Strategy and Sustainable Harvest Calculation
- Columbia River Systems and removal of lower Snake River dams
- Celebration of Science
- North Olympic Peninsula People's Climate March
- Open water Atlantic salmon net pens
- "Pull Together" to protect the Salish Sea
- Brinnon Pleasant Harbor Master Planned Resort
- Calawah Watershed proposed Off Highway Vehicle use
- Clallam County Shoreline Master Program (SMP)
- National Park fee increases
- and I'm sure I've forgotten some

The People's Climate March and the Celebration of Science in Port Angeles with representatives from Clallam and Jefferson Counties were big events. It was also a huge challenge for all involved. Thanks to National Sierra Club, we were able to provide liability insurance for the Climate March. We also donated funds and assigned volunteers to both events. BIG thanks to all our members who participated.

We provided three youth scholarships to marine day camps. Atlantic salmon net pens became a huge issue of concern and we responded by co-sponsoring a net pen forum and the People's Hearing. Both of which energized local citizens to campaign against the pens. We interviewed and endorsed local candidates, joined local groups in sending a letter to political representatives asking for review and intervention concerning Navy plans, hosted a Sierra Club 125th anniversary party, and attended countless government meetings.

We couldn't accomplish this without our Excom members (Norm Baker, Cherri Mann, Darlene Schanfald, Genie Mixson, Bob Sextro, Marc Sullivan and Bill Volmut) who met each month to take care of business and decide strategy on the numerous environmental issues. Equally important were those "Friends" (James Loran, Mary Porter-Solberg and Krestine Reed) non-voting members who consistently attended our meetings, contributed ideas and donated hours of volunteer time.

A few more volunteers would certainly lighten our load. All talents, expertise or a willingness to contribute are welcome. And don't forget our Excom meetings are open to all members. We hope to see you soon.



SHOULD BE EVEN BETTER! Especially with your help



COASTAL WATERSHED INSTITUTE FEBRUARY EVENTS

February 5th Barhop Brewery Port Angeles, 6:00 PM - Join Dr. Tom Quinn for an evening “talking fish” based on the upcoming second edition of Quinn’s book, *The Behavior and Ecology of Pacific Salmon and Trout*. Dr. Tom’s topic in this casual exchange will be, “Top Ten Things I’d Like to Know About Salmon and Trout” (sponsored by Coastal Watershed Institute and Patagonia). For more information, contact Tony Thompson, CWI intern, iamtonythom@gmail.com. 360-477-3621.

February 6th Beach seining of the west Elwha nearshore, 8:00 AM – Meet at the Place Road (west delta) access site. Join the Coastal Watershed Institute team and observe first-hand the beginning of the Elwha salmon spring run.

Wear waders and warm clothes. You will be getting in the water!

Contact: Tony Thompson, CWI intern, iamtonythom@gmail.com. 360-477-3621

PLEASANT HARBOR MASTER PLAN RESORT UPDATE

The proposed Pleasant Harbor Master Planned Resort (MPR) at Black Point continued to draw public comment during the Jefferson County commissioners’ Nov. 27 meeting. At the meeting, Brinnon Group representative, Barbara Moore Lewis stated skepticism about the commissioners’ stated intent of “weighing everyone’s rights” as regards to the MPR.

A further joint meeting of the Jefferson Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and the Planning Commission (PC) is scheduled for January 16th to brief the PC on the draft development agreement. Most details are still in flux. They are aiming for a morning meeting, but no time has been set; they anticipate a large audience and so are looking for a large space in which to hold the meeting; it is unclear whether there will be a public comment time and they are refusing to release the draft development agreement through public disclosure. Visit Brinnon Group’s [website](#) for meeting updates.

It would be helpful if you could ask the county for public comment time on January 16; talk to the newspaper editors one on one about your concerns as many people have difficulty writing letters that are published; and attend the January 16 meeting.

The Brinnon Group, a Washington State nonprofit, is very grateful to those who have donated. All funds go into the legal defense fund for attorney Rick Aramburu. Much of the research for legal action is being done pro bono by local attorneys.

You can send checks to: Brinnon Group, PO Box 572, Brinnon, WA 98320-0572 or donate through their [website](#).

PLEASE NOTE: Starting January 2018 Executive Committee meetings will be held 2:00 to 4:00

It's Time To Say "ENOUGH!"



- The average American family takes home **almost 1,500 plastic shopping bags a year**.
- According to Waste Management, **only 1 percent of plastic bags are returned for recycling**. That means that the average family only recycles 15 bags a year; the rest ends up in landfills as litter.
- **Up to 80 percent of ocean plastic pollution** enters the ocean from land.
- **100,000 marine animals** are killed by plastic bags annually.
- At least **267 different species** have been affected by plastic pollution in the ocean.

“Enough” is happening now in Port Angeles. A local group, the Port Angeles Plastic Reduction Coalition, will be informing the public in early January and presenting a Reusable Bag Ordinance to the Port Angeles City Council in February. For more information about the group:

<https://www.facebook.com/stoptheinsanity/>

Jan 4 - 12:35 PM, Peninsula College Little Theater Join Melinda Gelder, PhD, and a panel of local citizens for "Our Plastic Planet: The Real Truth and How we Can Change" during Studium Generale. The presentation will focus on disposable plastics, their use and waste, and the effects they have on our environment and on us. There will be an opportunity to ask questions.

Jan 4 - 7:00 PM, Peninsula College Maier Performance Hall Magic of Cinema will offer a free screening of the documentary film "Bag It". The award-winning documentary follows "everyman" Jeb Berrier as he navigates our plastic world. Are plastic bags really necessary? What are plastic bags made from? What happens to plastic bags after they are discarded? What he learns quickly grows far beyond plastic bags. The film is co-sponsored by the Port Angeles Plastic Reduction Coalition, the Ocean Guardian program, and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, the screening will be followed by a panel discussion.

Feb 6th - 6:00 PM, Port Angeles City Council Meeting The Plastics Reduction Coalition will present the Reusable Bag Ordinance to the Council. It will not be voted on that night but a big showing will make an impact!! There should be public comment on the ordinance at the Feb 20th Council meeting.

HAVE A VOICE LOCALLY: A Women's March is scheduled for **January 20th** in Port Townsend. The March will start at 10:30 AM from 1111 Water Street. For more information:

https://www.facebook.com/events/529458367433822/?active_tab=discussion

SOME GOOD NEWS: The World Bank will end financial support for oil and gas exploration within the next two years in response to the growing threat posed by climate change. It is time for all of the institutions, countries, investors and individuals who are still in the Paris agreement to stop funding fossils – once and for all.



A Major WIN for Environmentalists and the State of Washington

by Cherri Mann who attended the meeting

Outside the Capitol in Olympia, a jubilant group of activists head home hours before they thought they could! Shouts of joy and tears – the favorable ending to a four-year fight to keep the Tesoro Oil Company from moving forward with their plans to build the Vancouver oil-to-train terminal on the Columbia River!

On Tuesday, November 28th, a public meeting in Olympia before the Energy Council (EFSEC) determined the fate of the Vancouver oil terminal. Environmentalists showed up in large numbers with orange tee-shirts ready to get the results of years of activism. Environmentalists were warned: no public comments would be taken, and to bring snacks, water... and be prepared for a very long afternoon as the EFSEC would present their findings to the audience.

Concerned about protection of human health and the environment, over 300,000 comments urged denial of the Tesoro Savage project! The proposed Tesoro crude-by-rail terminal would send five loaded trains down the Columbia River each day. Native Tribes, communities, environmental agencies, and the general public spoke out against it. Adding fuel to their position was the 2016 Mosier oil train derailment and fire in Oregon that came within hundreds of feet of a local school and housing. Safety failure would result in an unimaginable destruction and harm to people as well as to the Columbia River.

It took only 10 minutes for the five-person panel to deliver the unanimous verdict against proceeding with the project as outlined. Total surprise and joy were expressed by the audience after years of pushback – waiting 10 minutes and their efforts were rewarded with the findings!

The recommendation will have a final draft on December 19th to be on Governor Inslee's desk. We need to let Governor Inslee know the importance of his signature on this issue! Let's hope this "Stand Up to Oil" will be the final voice from Olympia!

Sierra Club members have joined with other environmentalist to stop the following fossil fuel projects: Cherry Point, Bellingham; Tesoro Oil in Vancouver; coal export in Longview; export project in Aberdeen, and Methanol plant in Kalama. Our work will continue to stop fossil fuel production.

Activism works! We must work together for the health of our State!



HOW HEALTHY IS YOUR SHOPPING?

National Resources Defense Council and their partners just released a consumer report grading retailers on the toxicity of their products — and many of America's most popular stores failed.

Learn how your favorite stores scored on the second annual Mind the Store retailer report card: [second annual Mind the Store retailer report card](#)

Then [take action](#) by demanding top retailers eliminate toxic chemicals from their products and have better chemical safety policies.



EPA REPORT CARD

Glyphosate Battle in Europe

It has been quite a while since NOG has said anything about the herbicide glyphosate, the primary ingredient of Monsanto's product, Roundup®. Since the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered it for use in 1974, it has become the most widely used herbicide in the world. In 2015, the World Health Organization declared it a "probable carcinogen" and many countries began taking action to phase out its usage. An International Monsanto Tribunal was established as an international civil society tasked with holding Monsanto accountable for human rights violations and ecocide.

The European Union (EU) sponsored hearings from Monsanto victims from all over the world. In April 2017, they convinced a panel of international judges that the company is violating basic human rights. In October when the re-authorization of glyphosate in the EU came due, the customary 15-year period for approval was not issued. Instead, Monsanto got a 5-year permit. France and Italy are discussing a 3-year phase out of the herbicide.

The United States EPA does not agree that glyphosate is a carcinogen to humans. The EPA performed a study in 2016. To date they have ignored the Freedom of Information Act requests to release the report of their Cancer Assessment Report Committee.

EPA Over-use of Emergency Pesticide Approvals

According to research done by the Center for Biological Diversity, the Environmental Protection Agency may be falling short on their research and verification duties in evaluating pesticide registration for public use. If an unregistered product is needed, an emergency exemption may be requested. The EPA tries to complete their process within 50 days but must first verify that an emergency exists. Examples:

1. Avert a significant economic loss.
2. A significant risk to endangered or threatened species or beneficial organisms.
3. A threat to the environment exists.

The EPA may authorize an exemption for up to a year.

The temptation to process a request quickly may be hard to resist. In one case, the EPA has granted 78 "emergency" exceptions over the past six years for a well-known bee-killing pesticide called sulfoxaflor, allowing its use on more than 17.5 million acres of U.S. farmland.

The EPA's over-use of the emergency provision has meant that unapproved pesticides are used year after year across millions of acres — in ways that either haven't been tested to be safe or are *known* to be harmful to wildlife.

URANIUM MINING IN THE GRAND CANYON

The United States produces about 9% of the uranium needed to support our nuclear power plants. The quality of our uranium is inferior to that of foreign sources, and so is very dependent on the price of the yellow cake produced to make mining it cost effective. During the past 15 years, the price has increased to a point where domestic mining has become desirable to industry. Mining companies have increased lobbying the government to open up federal lands for mining.

In 2009, concerns of contamination of the watershed and lands around the Grand Canyon led the Department of the Interior to protect one million acres by putting a halt to uranium mining. The Bureau of Land Management needed to assess the impact of mining on this very sensitive land. Two years into the research it was determined that more data is needed in order to make conclusions about how pollutants act in the canyon's intricate, vast watershed, plants and wildlife. In January 2012, the land protection was extended by 20 years in order to properly perform the Environmental Impact Statement on such a large-scale ecosystem.

In March 2017, President Donald Trump issued an executive order requiring the heads of all federal regulatory agencies to review existing regulations that potentially burden the development or use of domestically produced energy resources. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) wasted no time in identifying this land as a source for energy development. On November 1, 2017 they took the first step toward eliminating the ban on new uranium mining leases near Grand Canyon National Park. Old mines within the area were technically exempt.

The environmental law firm Earthjustice is working with the Sierra Club, Native Americans and three other environmental non-profit organizations in fighting industry's incursions into these priceless public lands.

[Tell the Trump administration: No uranium mining in the Grand Canyon](#)

“The Grand Canyon and lands, watersheds and communities around it should not become dotted with mines and crisscrossed by roads and heavy trucks carting radioactive material. We'll continue the fight to protect the area's people, wildlife and life-giving waters.”

*Ted Zukoski
Staff Attorney, Earthjustice*



Starting in February NOG will be sponsoring membership events in Jefferson and Clallam Counties. These are still in the planning phase with programs alternating monthly between Port Townsend and Sequim/Port Angeles.

Our first event will be in Port Townsend. Watch for an email alert with date, time and program.



Winter Reading

Endangered by Tim Flach, Jonathan Baillie and Sam Wells. Three-quarters of the Earth's estimated 8.7 million species are at risk. This is a book of photographs of the most endangered animal species. <http://timflach.com/work/endangered/>

Our favorite food and farming books of 2017 a list for the food-obsessed reader compiled by Civil Eats.

Sacred Hunger by Barry Unsworth, written in 1992 and still in publication. An extraordinary novel of eighteenth century greed and the slave trade that leaves you pondering the human condition.

LETTING THE PEOPLE SPEAK



Klallam Drum Group opened the Hearing



Speakers Chief Ernest Alfred and
Carla Maxmuwidzumga Voyageur

The People's Public Hearing on fin fish net pen aquaculture and the Cooke Aquaculture permit for pens in the Strait of Juan de Fuca had an amazing public turnout of people wanting to testify. Seventy-one persons attended; 33 testified. Others in the audience had submitted comments to the County earlier.

King 5 TV covered the early part of the meeting and aired it the next day. The event was videotaped by the hosts and a thumb drive of the video was introduced into the Clallam County Cooke Aquaculture file, as comments are still being taken. Anyone can submit comments until a public hearing date is published. Email comments to Greg Ballard: gballard@co.clallam.us

The meeting was hosted by Washington State Sierra Club, Puget Soundkeeper, Students of the Salish Sea, and Protectors of the Salish Sea.