



North Olympic Group Newsletter

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Sep - Oct 2017



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Meetings & Events

Sept 8-10 – Wooden Boat Fest Corn Booth

Sept 14 – Excom meeting, 1-3 PM, Sequim Library

Sept 21 – Sierra Club 125 Birthday Party, 6-8 PM, Finnriver Cidery

Oct 6-8 – Crab Festival, Port Angeles

Oct 12 – Excom meeting, 1-3 PM, Port Townsend Library

Oct 23 – "Forest Truths" 6-8 PM, Port Angeles Library



If you think you are too small to be effective,

you have never been in bed with a mosquito.

Bette Reese

KILMER VISIT TO NORTH OLYMPIC PENINSULA FEATURES ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

By: Marc Sullivan

US Representative Derek Kilmer visited the North Olympic Peninsula during the recent Congressional recess. At town hall meetings in Chimacum and Port Angeles, attendees questioned Kilmer on 'Wild Olympics' legislation and the Forest Service's recent approval of Navy plans for an Electronic Warfare Range (EWR) on the borders of Olympic National Park. Kilmer also sponsored a showing of Al Gore's new climate-change documentary, "An 'Inconvenient Sequel'", at Port Townsend's Rose Theater.

At the Chimacum town hall, Kilmer cited outdoor recreation as a boon to our local economy. Wild Olympics activist Connie Gallant asked him to expand on that. He illustrated with a slide showing the legislation he and Senator Patty Murray have sponsored to protect 126,000 acres of forest land as wilderness and expand wild and scenic designation to most of the Peninsula's rivers. He touted its benefits to hunters, anglers and hikers. This drew a positive crowd response.

The principal environmental issue raised at the Port Angeles town hall was the controversial EWR. Kilmer explained the Navy's thinking regarding their need for training, and the numerous efforts he has made to secure an open and fair decision-making process. He maintained his stance of taking no position on the merits of the Navy project. The questioner who raised the issue seemed unsatisfied.

Kilmer met with a delegation of Sierra Club leaders in a private meeting. Sierra Club North Olympic Group activists Peter Guerrero, Betsy Robins, Marc Sullivan and staffer Alex Craven were present to discuss some of our key concerns. We raised the EWR issue, citing concerns about the impact of ultra-loud "Growler" fighter jets on national park visitors and residents in the flight paths. Kilmer emphasized the importance of reporting every instance of inappropriate Growler activities to the Navy.

The Sierra Club delegation also discussed two alarming pieces of legislation now before Congress: HR 2936 (regarding national forest policy) and HR 3144 (regarding dams and salmon on the Snake and Columbia Rivers). Each bill would blow gaping holes in the Endangered Species Act and the protections and processes in the National Environmental Policy Act. Kilmer fully shared the Club's concerns and opposed both bills. As the meeting drew to a close, the Club group also expressed concerns about the "Border Wall" (a disaster for wildlife, among other things); proposals to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling; and the threat of increased oil tanker traffic in the Strait of Juan De Fuca.



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Explore, Enjoy, Protect the Planet

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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

Darlene Schanfald

Bob Sextro

Marc Sullivan

Bill Volmut

Newsletter Editors – Janet Marx and Genie Mixson

Janetmarx_76@msn.com

Complaints, suggestions, and opinions are always welcome

H.R. 3144 – A BILL DESIGNED TO HALT SALMON RUN IMPROVEMENTS IN THE COLUMBIA & SNAKE RIVERS

H.R. 3144 was introduced in June. If it becomes law it would effectively overturn the court ruling and rubber-stamp the government's previous inadequate and illegal plan. It would prohibit the study of dam removal and overrule the court injunction supporting more spilling of water at dams to aid fish migration starting in 2018. Scientists tell us that these two actions are key to recovering wild stocks to healthy numbers.

Please sign the Columbia Riverkeeper petition requesting governors and representatives to oppose HR 3144.

[Sign the Petition](#)

[Our Orcas depend on restoring a healthy salmon run in the Columbia and Snake rivers.](#)

In the meantime Clallam County PUD Commissioners Simpson and Purser, while circumventing any public process, adopted Resolution 2089-17 supporting HR 3144. The North Olympic Group protested this action and requested that Resolution 2089-17 be rescinded until there is adequate opportunity for public comment. We are awaiting a response from the Commissioners.

United States Climate Alliance

Immediately after President Trump announced that he was withdrawing our country's participation in the 2015 Paris Agreement, three states announced that they were forming The United States Climate Alliance. Washington, California and New York would be standing by their commitment to uphold the objectives of the agreement. Since that day (June 1, 2017), they were quickly joined by 10 more states and Puerto Rico.

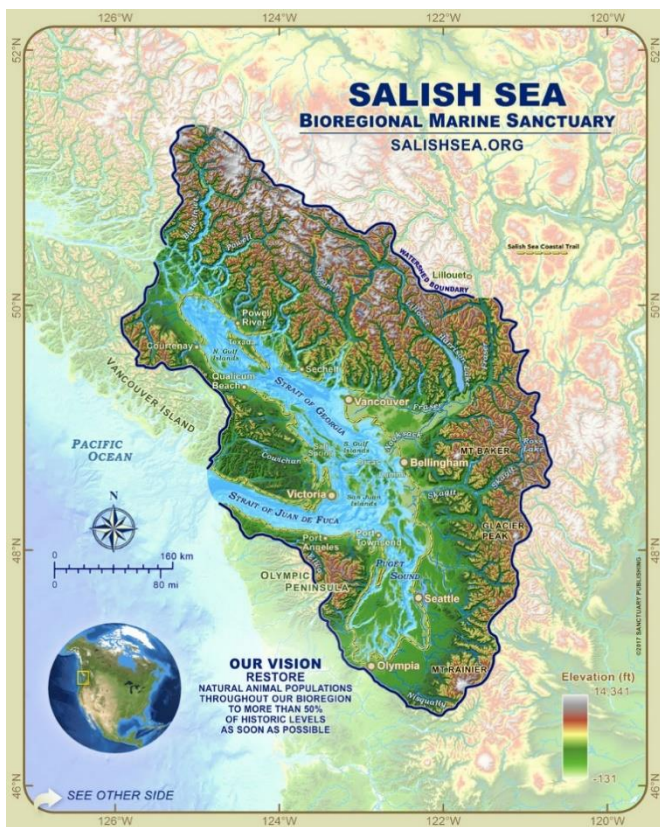
The alliance plans to achieve the U.S. goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 26–28% from 2005 levels by 2025, and meeting or exceeding the targets of the Federal Clean Power Plan. Read more about the Alliance at their official website by clicking [here](#):

The Walk to Protect and Preserve the Salish Sea

By Ingrid Carmean

This past July 7th - 9th 270 people participated in a walk from Seattle to Tacoma. Our desire was to bring attention to increasing threats to the Salish Sea*. Of the 70 who walked the total distance, three of us were from the North Olympic Peninsula. They were Ed Chadd, Debra Ellers, and myself.

The group shares a desire to create a Salish Sea Bio-Marine Sanctuary, particularly as a sanctuary for Orcas. The boundaries of this Bio-Marine Sanctuary would include all of the watershed into the Salish Sea, from the ridges of the Cascades, the Olympics and the Vancouver Island ranges down into the waters of the Salish Sea. **The goal is to restore native animal populations throughout our bioregion to more than 50% of historic levels as soon as possible.** This is a huge undertaking and it will be further complicated by two projects currently in development. **This map illustrates the watersheds involved.**



This map is made available by Eva Grace Ingram

Two issues threaten this goal:

1. The Kinder-Morgan crude oil distribution plant which is being built in Burnaby, British Columbia will receive tar sands oil and ship it out for refining. This is expected to increase tanker traffic through the Salish Sea seven-fold. The noise from these large vessels will hinder the resident orcas from feeding, navigating and communicating with each other. If a spill of the heavy tar sands oil were to occur, clean-up would be very difficult because it does not float on the surface.
2. Puget Sound Energy is building a Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) storage facility on the Tacoma tide flats. This massive tank will receive LNG derived from fracking (a process that fractures bedrock by using high pressure fluids injected to the earth), and store it for use by sea-faring vessels. The plant is controversial because pipelines feeding it must travel through Puyallup tribal lands, and it is close to residential areas. An explosion at this site could affect a 1.5-mile radius.

The group walked for three days and encountered generous support, police interactions and some opposition. To read about the journey and some of the people we met along the way click here: [Diary of the Walk](#)

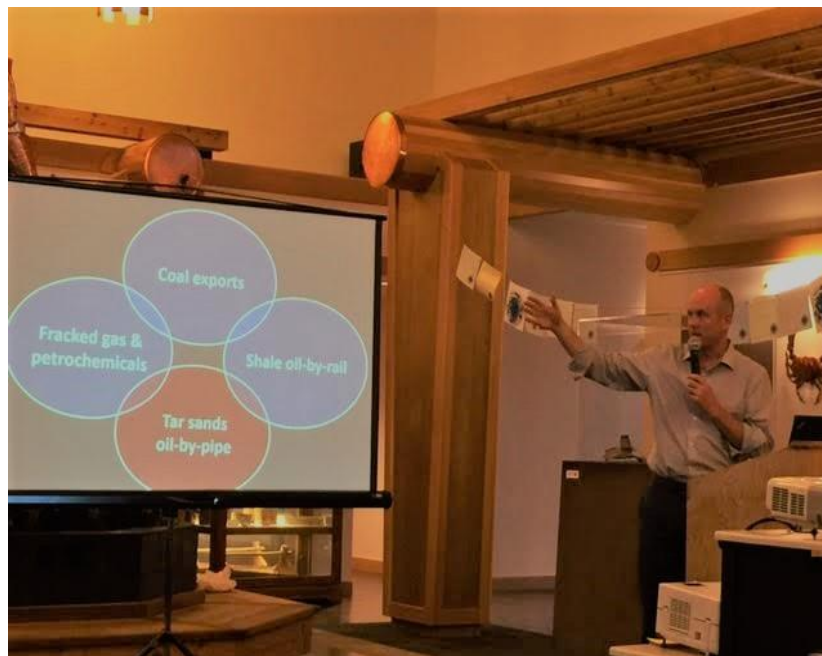
*The term Salish Sea was first used in 1988, when marine biologist Bert Webber recognized the Strait of Georgia, Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Puget Sound as one body of water and named it the Salish Sea after the Salish languages which are spoken in this area.

Pull Together to Protect the Salish Sea Fund Raisers

On August 22nd–23rd, the Sierra Club joined three other regional organizations in sponsoring fundraisers on the Olympic Peninsula. The funds raised will be distributed among First Nations groups who have filed legal challenges against the proposed Kinder Morgan Trans-Mountain Pipeline. This pipeline plans to move tar sands oil from Alberta to Burnaby, B.C. where it will be distributed via ocean vessels travelling through the Straights of Juan de Fuca. This project would increase tanker traffic by 700 percent.



The North Olympic Orca Pod (NOOP) sings and dances for the gathering at Finnriver



Keynote Speaker
Eric La Place at the
podium in Port
Angeles

The two Pull Together events raised \$ 5,774.00. If you want to donate to this cause, contact Victoria Leistman at: victoria.leistman@sierra.club.org

Sierra Club Supports Getting Kids Outdoors

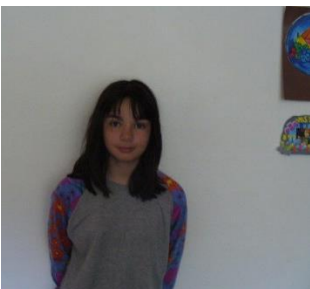
Recognizing the importance of educating and training youth to be the next environmental leaders, the NOG recently awarded the following summer youth scholarships in memory of Dorothea Hover-Kramer, a local environmental activist.



Willy Walden, middle school student from Port Townsend (shown here with his parents) attended Port Townsend Marine Science Center's *Marine Biology Afoot & Afloat* camp. Learning about the marine environment so stoked Willy that he stayed on as a volunteer counselor to help with the Center's other summer camp programs. The Sierra Club salutes Willy and all students who put down their iPhones and turned off their video games this summer to get out on the trails and waters of our beautiful Olympic Peninsula.

Photo Unavailable

Preston Cook, age 9, was scheduled to attend the Port Angeles Fiero Marine Center in July. According to his mother, Preston only attended one day. The evening after the first day, he had a 103-degree temperature from an ear infection requiring emergency care. It was a great disappointment as Preston was so excited about his first day. He was never bored and there were so many activities. Hopefully we can give Preston another chance for scholarship next summer.



Kai'Enna Walton, age 10, attended the Marine Biology camp. She enjoyed the learning games, visiting the touch tanks in the Center, exploring and playing on the beach. She learned about what you can do to protect the sea life especially doing experiments finding out about plastics in the water. Kai'Enna would like to go to the camp again as it was really good and she liked the teacher.





Whose Waters Are These?

As most of us are now aware, Cooke Aquaculture Pacific (CAP), a part of Cook Aquaculture, a global fish-farming company, has applied to Clallam County for a permit to locate a new and extensive Atlantic Salmon net pen in the Straits. Cooke's recent acquisition of Icicle Seafoods in Washington is intended to help the company reach new markets and continue its expansion.

Until recently, initial approval of the Permit has rested primarily with Clallam County DCD with a public hearing scheduled for September 7th. Following an August 19th escape of thousands of the non-native fish from a facility on Cypress Island (see photo above), Governor Inslee and the State Lands Commissioner suspended state permitting of new Atlantic salmon marine net pens. Clallam County followed suit afterwards, cancelling the September 7th public hearing.

Based on Governor Inslee's past support of all types of aquaculture we can only assume that the permitting suspension is only temporary until public censor has diminished. In order to inform the public regarding Atlantic salmon net pens the North Olympic Group sponsored an August 29th forum featuring Kurt Beardslee with Wild Fish Conservancy and Chris Wilke with Puget Soundkeeper alliance.

In attendance were 99 mostly unhappy and displeased people. They signed a petition requesting that Governor Inslee stop permitting Salmon net pens in Washington State. You can sign the same petition on-line at oursound-oursalmon.org/sign-the-petition

Our Sound – Our Salmon is also sponsoring a flotilla event off the Bainbridge Island net pen. If you want to grab your canoe or kayak and join in you will find more information at oursound-oursalmon.org/flotilla/

We urge all of you to help in preventing more Atlantic salmon net pens in our waters by writing Letters to the Editor of your local newspaper. Also email or write the Clallam County Department of Community Development opposing the CAP project. Suggested comments:

- The Cypress Island escapement demonstrates the need for a full Environmental Assessment before approving the project.
- The project is misidentified as a "relocation" when in fact it is a new construction and design. All references to Port Angeles Harbor facility should be removed.
- Even with the considerable Federal, State and County required approvals, the government agencies lack oversight making recommendations rather than calling for requirements and inspections.
- Read [NOG's comments](#) to Clallam County DCD located at our new [Aquaculture page](#) on our website.
- More recommended comments can be found at [atlantic-salmon-net-pen-recommendations-comments](#)

Email comments to gballard@co.clallam.wa.us or mail comments to:

Gregg Ballard, Senior Planner; Clallam County Community Development;

223 E 4th Street Port Angeles, WA 98362

BE SURE YOUR EMAIL OR LETTER INCLUDES A REFERENCE TO: SJR2016-00002



The Best Places to be Seen on the Peninsula This Fall

Sept. 8 thru 10 If you attend the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival be sure and stop by the corn booth operated by the Clallam County Olympic Climate Action. Many Sierra club members are helping out. Stop by and show your support for the climate action cause.



SEPT. 21 North Olympic Group members are celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Sierra Club at the Finnrivier Cidery in Chimacum. This is a fun chance (not a fund raiser) to meet members and enjoy free refreshments. If, for some reason, you have not received your postcard invitation, please call 360-457-6605 or email janetmarx_76@msn.com and leave your name and contact information. Seating is limited so be sure to **RSVP by Sept. 12th**.



Oct. 6 thru 8 Once again we will have a Sierra Club booth at the Port Angeles Crab and Seafood Festival. We need your help staffing the booth. Last year we did not have enough volunteers to staff the booth and had to cancel. **WE NEED YOU** - If you can volunteer for a two-hour shift (or more!) please email northolympicgroupsc@gmail.com and leave your name and contact information.



OCT. 23 **TIMBER TRUTHS - How timber companies exploit timber communities and the environment.**

Josey Paul, a timber advocate and Sierra Club member, will update us on the current challenges to protecting our forests and offer a way forward to preserve forests, wildlife, employment and beneficiaries' incomes from this important public resource.

There will be opportunities for questions and answers. Join us at the Port Angeles Library on Oct. 23rd, 6 to 9 PM.

And in Retrospect.... Eclipse of the Sun

Where were you on August 21st when North America was treated to a special astronomical event? Millions of people donned protective glasses and viewed the solar eclipse. Our area of northwest Washington was able to see about 90 percent coverage.



FOSSIL FUEL UPDATES

Vancouver Oil Terminal Proposal: After an Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) hearing on the project's storm water discharge permit, the years-long regulatory process is moving toward a final decision. The final steps that lead to the terminal's final approval or rejection include:

- A Nov. 30th deadline to make a final recommendation to Governor Inslee, who will determine the terminal's fate. EFSEC has given itself previous extensions; another extension could last into 2018.
- When EFSEC makes its recommendation, a public hearing will be scheduled to announce it. No public comments will be taken.
- After the announcement, Gov. Inslee is mandated by law to issue his final decision within 60 days.

What can you do to oppose the terminal at this point? Both now and when the clock starts ticking on Gov. Inslee's decision, **call and write the governor** and ask him to say no to this dirty, dangerous oil by rail terminal.

Kalama Methanol Refinery and Export Terminal: On June 29th, conservation groups, including the Sierra Club, challenged two Shoreline Management Act permits for the world's largest fracked methanol refinery, slated for development along the Columbia River. The permits were approved by the State Department of Ecology. "When the department approved this permit, it guaranteed a massive increase in greenhouse gas pollution even as the State has called for reductions," said Adrienne Bloch, an Earthjustice attorney who filed the appeal. "The permits for this enormous fracking project do not protect Washington's clean air, water, natural environment and fails to protect residents and workers."

Anacortes Tesoro Xylene Project: The Skagit County Planning and Development Services determined this project would have no significant environmental impacts that would require mitigation. According to the project EIS, the refinery needs permits from several local, state and federal agencies to proceed. The potential for a major marine spill remains the only significant environmental impact of the project, according to the final EIS. Since Skagit County concluded the likelihood of a major spill is low, existing permit requirements, safety procedures and emergency response plans are adequate to address the potential impact.



There is something fundamentally wrong in treating
the earth as if it were a business in liquidation.

Herman Dale, World Bank economist

PLEASANT HARBOR UPDATE

Last month we reported on the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe's (PGST) opposition to approval of the project until water quality, environmental and cultural concerns are addressed. Jefferson County, as an agent of the State, is a party to the Point No Point Treaty of 1855. Yet to date the developer and the county have not fully involved the PGST in the plan. Ignoring the cultural significance of the "kettles" (depressions in the ground created roughly 14,000 years ago by glaciers), the developer is proposing that the largest 12-acre kettle be backfilled with dirt and a pond created in the top to store runoff and treated sewage water. As well, no study specifically addressing shellfish impact and tribal harvest rights was included in any Environmental Impact Statement.

The three County Commissioners are saying that this is a new time with new information. So, this makes it a good time for citizens to try to intervene in the process. Call or write your commissioners stating your concerns.

[Email the Board of County Commissioners](#)

Phone: 360-385-9100

Mailing address: P.O. Box 1220 Port Townsend, WA 98368

FIRES BRING SMOKE HAZARD

Fire season is not over and the Northwest is feeling the effects. Wild fires have blazed in British Columbia, Washington, Montana, Oregon and California. This has been catastrophic for the forests and all who live in the areas affected. Homes were lost and the land charred. Here in Northwestern Washington, smoke from the British Columbia fires hung in the air for over two weeks in August. The poor air quality was felt by all, but some people are more sensitive than others.

- **Persons with heart or lung disease**, such as COPD, emphysema or asthma.
- **Older adults**, who are more likely to have heart or lung disease than younger people.
- **Children and teenagers**, because their respiratory systems are still developing and they tend to spend more time outside.
- **Persons with diabetes**, because they are more likely to have underlying cardiovascular disease.
- **Pregnant women**, because there could be potential health effects for the developing fetus.

High concentrations of smoke can trigger symptoms ranging from burning eyes, runny nose, cough, phlegm, wheezing and difficulty breathing. To protect yourself, limit your exposure to smoke. In extreme cases, this may mean that you need to leave the area. Otherwise

- **Have medicine on hand**, especially if you have asthma.
- **Have a several-day supply of nonperishable foods that do not require cooking**
- **Consider buying an air cleaner**. Some room air cleaners can help reduce particle levels indoors. Note: Don't use an air cleaner that generates ozone as it just puts more pollution in your home.
- **Have a supply of N-95 or P-100 masks on hand, and learn how to use them correctly.**

Pay attention to where your sewage winds up!

– Darlene Schanfald

You may already know that toxic sewage sludge winds up in compost and fertilizer, and that noncertified organic food can be grown in it and may take up some of the sludge toxins.

WA State Ecology (Ecology) just released its Reclaimed Water Rule for public comment.

<<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/lawsrules/wac173219/p0612a.pdf>>

This is the treated, though unclear, effluent from wastewater treatment plants that can carry up to 90,000 contaminants and an array of pathogens, many of which are unknown and most do not have to be identified. It is the agency's latest attempt to add more sewage toxins to our soils.

The reclaimed water from municipal wastewater treatment and industrial plants would be used for food crops, recreational lands, and released into wetlands hoping these would further clean the toxins, which makes the point that the effluent is not a clean source. In some cases, Ecology would allow it for use as potable water. It could be injected into aquifers.

While there are several methods of further treating the effluent to use for potable water, none is foolproof, and each has its own drawbacks. EPA, after allowing this, approved five applications that would research whether recycling this waste for potable water was safe. Kind of putting the cart before the horse!

For land applied use, chlorine and ultraviolet light are WA State's preferred methods of disinfection. These, too, are not foolproof methods and will add additional soil and potentially groundwater problems to those existing from land applying the sewage sludge.

This is an issue of concern to many in Sierra Club. We will be keeping you informed.

LAST MINUTE ITEM OF INTEREST:



This Photo was taken near the Landing Mall in downtown Port Angeles on Sunday, Sept 3rd. The gathering is demonstrating against the proposed Cooke Atlantic salmon net pens in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Kayaks were also across the water in front of the existing harbor net pens parading a protest sign. There were numerous Sierra Club activists in the crowd.