



Spring/Summer 2007

Dear Marine Shoreline Property Owner:

An important biological study will soon be conducted in your neighborhood, called the "East Kitsap Nearshore Salmon Habitat Assessment." Between May and October, teams of up to three scientists will be collecting data along all of the Puget Sound marine shoreline of the east Kitsap Peninsula, from the Kitsap-Pierce county line to Foulweather Bluff.

The Nearshore Assessment is a scientific evaluation of existing conditions and the health of our shoreline. Your property is along the 155 miles of east Kitsap County beaches that are part of the shoreline assessment. The County is committed to improving the health of Puget Sound, however we currently lack the knowledge to prioritize among potential shoreline protection and restoration projects. The results of the assessment will assist in demonstrating to state and federal funding programs the relative priority of proposed projects to restore and sustain Kitsap County's marine shorelines.

You may notice researchers using Global Positioning System (GPS) units and a digital camera collecting data, which includes recording natural and human-impacted beach characteristics. The field work requires collecting data below the ordinary high water mark. This work will be done at a brisk pace, since time and optimum low tides are limited.

The assessment is funded through a grant from the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Grant funding supports involvement of scientists from the Battelle Marine Science Laboratory, in addition to natural resources managers from the County, Suquamish Tribe, and the Washington Sea Grant Program at the University of Washington, all of whom are providing staff and equipment for the project.

For more information about the East Kitsap Nearshore Salmon Habitat Assessment, please visit www.kitsapgov.com/dcd/nr/nearshore/default.htm or contact:

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Thank you for your cooperation with this important study.

Sincerely,

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