



RE: West Kitsap Hood Canal Nearshore Assessment

Summer 2008

Dear Marine Shoreline Property Owner:

An important biological study will soon be conducted in your neighborhood, called the "West Kitsap Hood Canal Nearshore Assessment." Between June and September, teams of up to three scientists will be collecting data along the Hood Canal marine shoreline of west Kitsap Peninsula, from Foulweather Bluff to the Kitsap-Mason County line.

The Nearshore Assessment is a scientific evaluation of existing conditions and the health of our shoreline. Your property is along the 66 miles of west Kitsap County beaches that are part of the shoreline assessment. The County is committed to improving the health of Puget Sound and Hood Canal, however we currently lack the knowledge to prioritize among potential shoreline protection and restoration projects. The results of the assessment, as well as one completed in summer 2007 for east Kitsap, 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.

Future grant funding could support involvement of scientists from the Battelle Marine Science Laboratory in the analysis.

For more information about the West Kitsap Hood Canal Nearshore Assessment, or maps and data from our East Kitsap Nearshore Assessment, please visit [www.kitsapgov.com/dcd/nr/nearshore/default.htm](http://www.kitsapgov.com/dcd/nr/nearshore/default.htm) or contact:

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Thank you for your cooperation with this important study.

Sincerely,

*Patty Charnas*

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