



2015 Hood Canal Environmental Achievement Awards

Honorable Mentions

The HCCC Board of Directors acknowledges these additional nominees in appreciation of their efforts:

Amy Georgeson, Washington Department of Health

...for her contribution to the Hood Canal Regional Pollution Identification Correction program and as an author of the Hood Canal Shellfish Growing Area #6 Shoreline survey

Navy Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration

...a partnership comprised of the Navy, Washington Department of Natural Resources, The Trust for Public Lands, Washington State Parks, and Pope Resources, who work together to protect Hood Canal from adverse development pressures and impacts

Olympic Forest Coalition

...for its part to protect, conserve and restore natural forest ecosystems on the Olympic Peninsula and in Hood Canal and for the Washington Wildlife Restoration Initiative, a coalition of 15 conservation and recreation organizations

Seth Book, Skokomish Tribe

...who tirelessly tracked the low dissolved oxygen event and associated fish kill noting conditions on the ground including impacts to species

The Skokomish Tribe

...for planning an extension of the wastewater force main along Highway 101 up to the Lucky Dog Casino along with the wastewater treatment facility that was recently built to restore and preserve Hood Canal

Thom Johnson, Point No Point Treaty Council

...for his role in the development and implementation of the Hood Canal Summer Chum Conservation Initiative, a crucial component to the ongoing recovery of Hood Canal Summer Chum



Celebrating 30 Years of collaborating for a healthy Hood Canal

2015 Hood Canal Environmental Achievement Awards



30th Anniversary Celebration!

Hood Canal Coordinating Council

Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason Counties
Port Gamble S’Klallam & Skokomish Tribes

November 6, 2015
Skokomish, WA



Program

Breakfast

Sign-in at your table. How well do you know Hood Canal? Take the quiz (answers can be found at ourhoodcanal.org). Enjoy slide show of Hood Canal.

Welcome

HCCC celebrates its 30th anniversary with a glance at the past, present and future of the Hood Canal watershed with featured speakers:

- **Donna Simmons**—currently President of the Hood Canal Environmental Council, is one of the founders of the Hood Canal Coordinating Council, originally serving as a representative of Washington State Ecological Commission. She became the Council's Public Education Program Coordinator and was the HCCC Administrative Assistant until 2000. Donna will provide a brief history of the HCCC.
- **Congressman Derek Kilmer**—U.S. Representative of Washington's 6th Congressional District, is a native of the Olympic Peninsula who knows the important role that natural resources play in our region and is committed to protecting our waters and improving the health of our forests. Congressman Kilmer helped found the Puget Sound Recovery Caucus to bring increased focus and attention to the cleanup work that needs to be done to restore our region's waters. The congressman will discuss moving forward, how HCCC can help, and Save Our Sound legislation.
- **Chris Dunagan**—formerly Kitsap Sun environmental reporter, and currently an environmental blogger and senior writer for the Puget Sound Institute, UW, has covered issues and success stories of Hood Canal and was a lead writer of [Hood Canal: Splendor at Risk](#). Chris will highlight his many years of reporting on Hood Canal.

Break

Hood Canal Environmental Achievement Awards Presented by the HCCC Board of Directors

Awards Luncheon

Event ends at 1:30 p.m.

2015 Hood Canal Environmental Achievement Award Winners

This year the HCCC Board of Directors is honoring two community groups that have fostered the spirit of cooperation and collaboration towards achieving a healthy Hood Canal. The 2015 award recipients are:

Beards Cove Community Organization (BCCO)

Accepting: Louena "Louie" Yelverton, President

This organization represents over 500 property owners on the north shore of Hood Canal. Concerns over the health of Hood Canal moved the BCCO Board to join the Great Peninsula Conservancy and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to explore ways to improve water quality, fish habitat, and the overall health of Hood Canal. Discussions led to the Beards Cove Restoration Project that will soon return Union River estuary shoreline to its original historic conditions.

The estuary had been the focus of three decades of conservation work by land trusts and agencies, adding up to over 700 acres of preserved shoreline, marsh, and forest. The Beards Cove Restoration Project completes the missing link in 1.7 miles of unbroken saltmarsh along the north shore of the Union River estuary. Efforts resulted in removal of 45,000 cubic yards of fill, derelict structures, a septic system and paving, reconfiguration of the shoreline, and planting native vegetation to enhance habitat for summer chum and other species. This community's foresight and commitment has been essential to the success of the project.

Newberry Hill Heritage Park (NHHP) Stewards

Accepting: Tom Coleman, Stewardship Group President

Park stewards volunteer to support wildlife in the Little Anderson Creek watershed that drains into the Hood Canal. They worked with Silverdale REI to install a fence to keep people from walking on a beaver dam, and they also collaborated with the Suquamish Tribe, the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group to build a sustainable bridge over the mouth of the creek where beavers have flooded a trail. Their goal is to replace culverts blocking salmonids on Newberry Hill Road and Seabeck Highway to allow a continuous, protected path for Coho to thrive in healthy spawning grounds.

In addition, NHHP stewards spend hundreds of hours educating themselves with stream, forest and wetland courses to stay current on the science. They crafted the first version of a forestry management plan adopted by Kitsap County as a template for area parks. Their restoration forestry program is a model for other agencies dealing with disturbed woodlands and monoculture issues. Many other community organizations regularly step in to help with these restoration efforts.