

# **Eyes Over Puget Sound**

Summary

Art & Smoke

**Nutrients & Context** 

Marine water

Aerial photos

Data

## **Surface Conditions Report**: October 2022



Up-to-date observations of water quality conditions in Puget Sound and coastal bays



#### Summary conditions at a glance



Summary

MONITORING

ONG-TERM MARINE

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#### Artists corner, p. 4

Showcasing the natural beauty of Puget Sound through photography.

#### Nutrients & context, p. 8

A healthy food web has at its base a balance of nutrients. An imbalance can create favorable conditions for less-desirable species.

## Thanking all staff since 1999



Field team: Natalie Coleman, Holly Young

#### Marine conditions, p. 13

Mostly expected conditions in October, with warmer and saltier water at the coast.

#### Aerial photography, p. 14

Blooms continuing in multiple terminal bays. Numerous patches of jellyfish in Budd Inlet and Liberty Bay. Sediment is visibly transported by the Puyallup River. Resuspended sediment along shorelines in Totten Inlet, in some places mixed with soil. Air conditions smoky.



Dr. Christopher Krembs

Editor: Dr. Christopher Krembs, editorial assistance: Valerie Partridge, Julianne Ruffner, Dany Burgess, Sandy Weakland

#### PUGET SOUND INSTITUTE

## Catch me if you can...



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As in a pandemic, the battle against invasive species may well depend on early actions

By Christopher Dunagan, May 24, 2021



European green crab // Photo: Kelly Martin, Washington Sea Grant

While not a direct threat to human health, <u>European green crabs</u> could take a heavy toll on native shellfish, destroy eelgrass beds important to salmon and forage fish, and consume commercial clams and oysters with financial losses to the shellfish industry.

Read article



## Puget Sound is beautiful and inspiring



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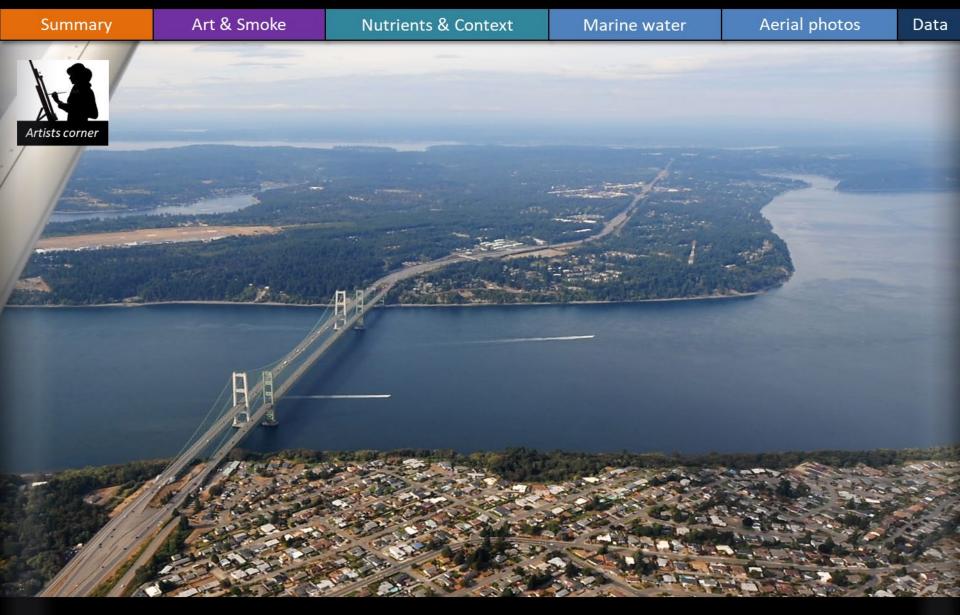
Showcasing the natural beauty of Puget Sound through photography from engaged artists in our communities and from unique vantage points.





## Puget Sound is beautiful and inspiring







## Air Quality in Puget Sound 10-10-2022



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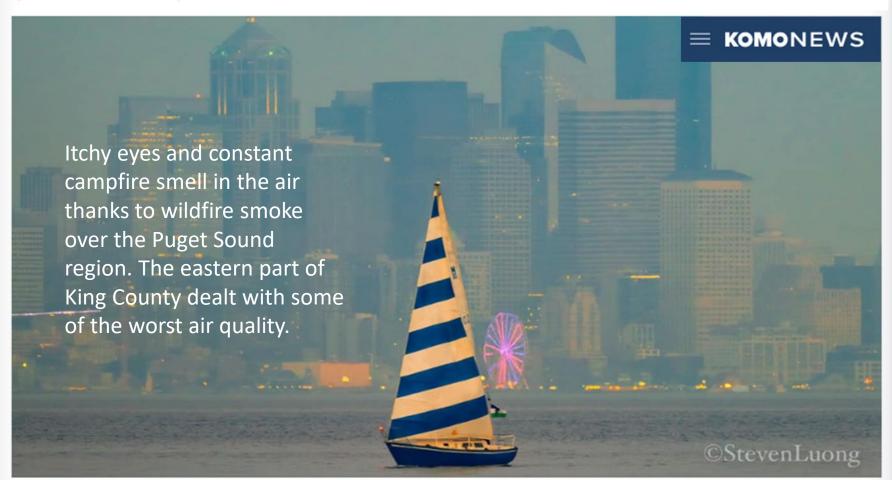
Aerial photos

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## Low air quality moves into Puget Sound region

by KOMO News Staff | Mon

Monday, October 10th 2022





## Air Quality in Puget Sound 10-10-2022



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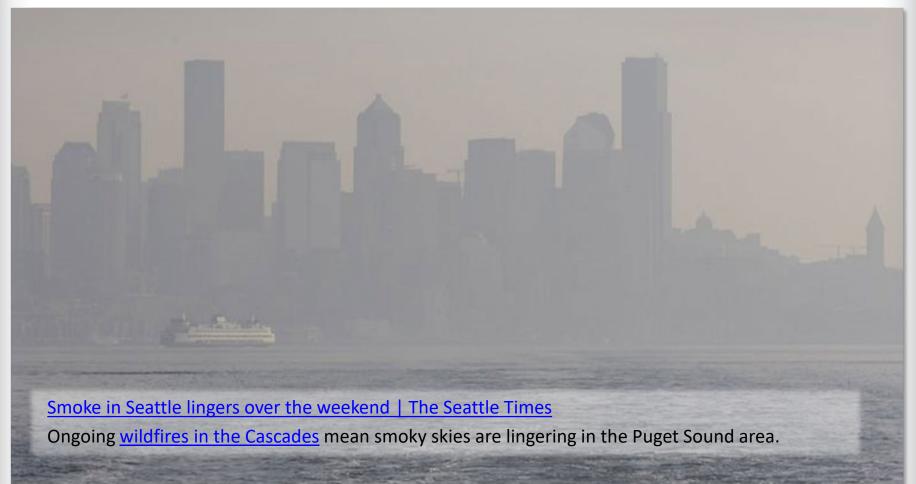
Marine water

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# Smoke in Seattle lingers over the weekend

Oct. 9, 2022 at 11:43 am Updated Oct. 10, 2022





#### The nutrient balance of the lower marine food web



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## A healthy food web has at its base a balance of nutrients

#### N-limited (unbalanced)

High phosphate concentration attracts nitrogen fixers

At a nitrogen-to-phosphate ratio below about 4, blue green algae start dominating the phytoplankton community.



Blue-green algae

#### **Balanced and productive**

Lipids are major constituents of diatoms (<u>read</u>). Puget Sound's coldwater food web relies on diatoms and their lipids.



Fish rich in lipids

#### P-limited (unbalanced)

High org nitrogen concentrations supports microbial food webs

At a nitrogen-to-phosphate ratio above about 20, flagellates start dominating the phytoplankton community.

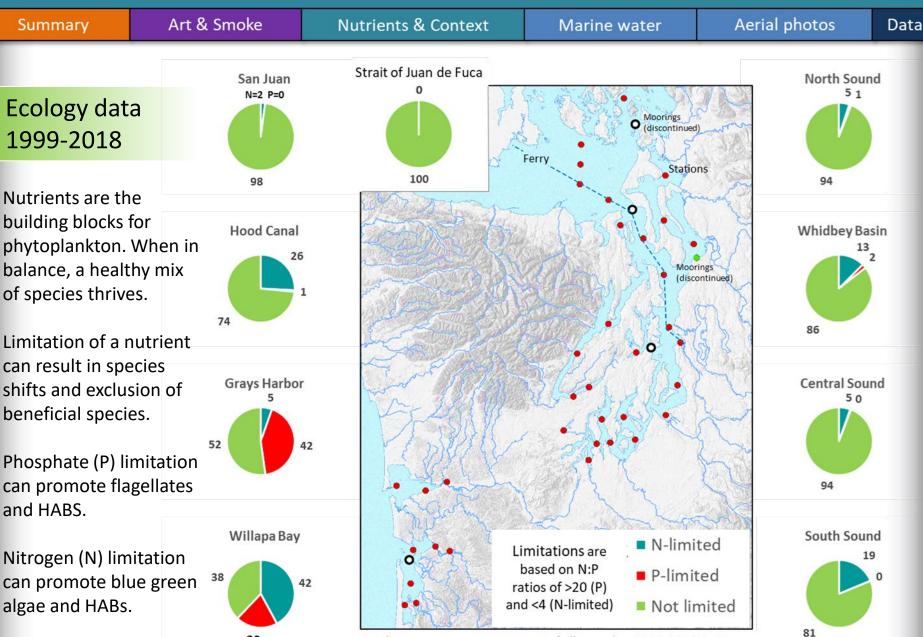


Red tides, flagellates



#### The nutrient balance of the lower marine food web





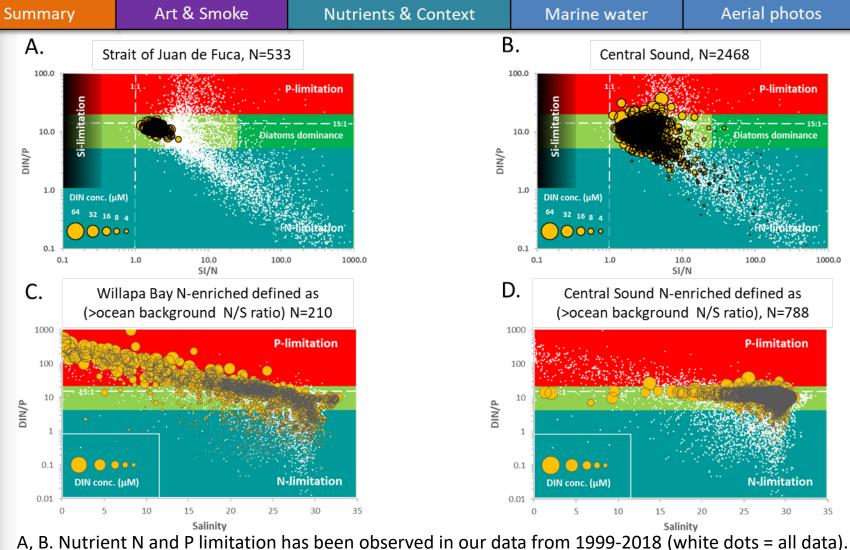
Numbers represent percentage of all samples 1999-2018 0-10 m



#### The nutrient balance of the lower marine food web



Data



Silica limitation (<1) has not been observed. Lower DIN concentrations (bubble plots) and optimal Redfield N-to-P and Si-to-N ratios are desired. A. Examples of balanced nutrient ratios near Redfield 15:1. B. & D. Occasional above Redfield 15:1 at a salinity of 25. C. N-to-P ratios above Redfield 15:1 at low salinity, suggesting river N sources.



#### Climate: How well is the Salish Sea exchanging its water?



Summary

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Nutrients & Context

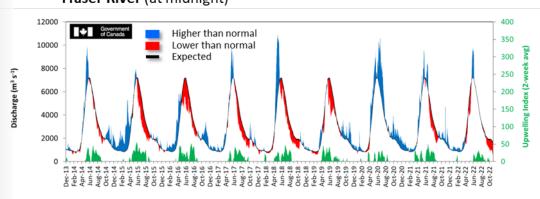
Marine water

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Historically, the peaks of coastal upwelling and the **freshet** are in sync.

#### Fraser River (at midnight)



The Fraser River is the major driver of estuarine circulation and water exchange between the Salish Sea and the ocean. Fraser River flows in October were lower than normal. Upwelling off the coast was also weaker this year suggesting less upwelled water entrainment into Puget Sound.

#### Three-year running average of PDO, Upwelling, and NPGO Indices



How do ocean boundary conditions affect the quality of water the Salish Sea exchanges with the ocean? Water has cooled (PDO). Upwelling (Upwelling Index <u>anomaly</u>) is around expected level. Productivity in the eastern Pacific is low but increasing again (NPGO; last updated Sep 2022).

DO/Upwelling In



## Climate: How well is Puget Sound exchanging its water?



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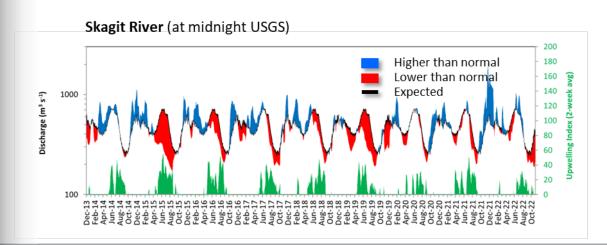
**Nutrients & Context** 

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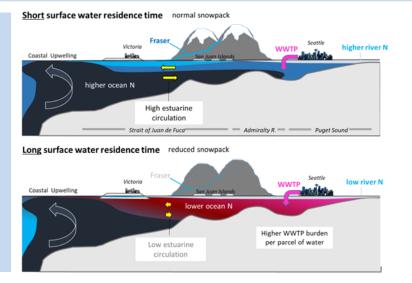
The Skagit River is the largest freshwater source for Puget Sound. It is a regulated river.



The Skagit River freshet is no longer clearly pronounced because the river is a regulated system for hydroelectric power generation. However, drought years and low flows can be seen in the river's discharge data. In 2022, flows dropped below normal in fall. Upwelling was weak in 2022.

Normal river flows drive "natural" nutrient inputs and keep the water cool.

Low river flows change the nutrient balance and make water warmer.



River flows and upwelling in the summer influence our water quality.

Rivers strengthen estuarine circulation in the Salish Sea. This is important in the summer.

Upwelled ocean water provides cool, nutrient-rich water.

For that to happen, we need northerly winds and good river flows (a good snowpack) during periods of water exchange through Admiralty Reach (neap tides).



#### **Marine Conditions and Anomalies**



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Field team: Natalie Coleman, Holly Young

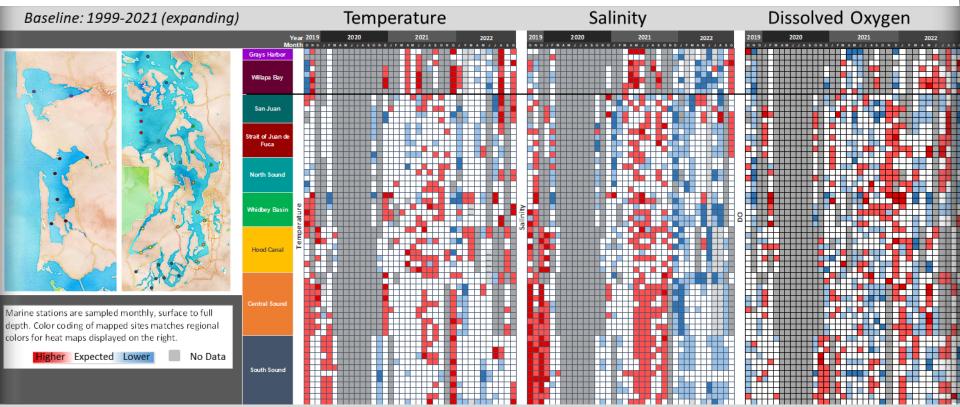
Marine Water Conditions: 2022 temperature, salinity, and dissolved oxygen

Coastal Bays Salish Sea

S: Higher S: Mostly expected, higher in the Straits & San Juans

DO: Variable DO: Expected

The year 2022 was relatively normal for temperature and oxygen concentrations and lower in salinity, reflecting a lot of rain in spring. In contrast, 2019 and 2021 were saltier.





#### What were the conditions at the surface on 10-10-2022?



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Blooms, some colorful, are continuing in multiple terminal bays. Numerous patches of jellyfish are seen in Budd Inlet and Liberty Bay. Sediment is visibly transported by the Puyallup River and resuspended along shorelines in Totten Inlet, in some places mixed with soil. It was smoky!



#### Mixing and fronts:

Small fronts along freshwater plumes of creeks and rivers.



#### Jellyfish and fish:

In Budd Inlet and Liberty Bay.



#### **Suspended sediment:**

Sediment is visibly transported by the Puyallup River and resuspended along shorelines in Totten Inlet, in some places mixed with soil.



#### **Visible blooms:**

Red-brown blooms in Budd, Henderson and Sinclair Inlets and Liberty Bay.



Turquoise bloom in Quartermaster Harbor and parts of Budd Inlet.



#### **Debris:**

Pretty much absent.



Summary Art & Smoke Nutrients & Context Marine water Aerial photos Data







# Aerial navigation guide Date: 10-10-2022

#### Click on numbers







# Flight Observations Intermediate visibility, Central Sound under thick smoke blanket

#### Tide data from 10-10-2022 (Seattle):

Time	Pred	High/Low
06:00 AM	10.66	H
11:49 AM	2.85	L
05:45 PM	11.51	H

## North West Environmental Moorings real-time data





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## Connecting aerial observation with data from ORCA moorings



#### NANOOS NVS Data Explorer



#### View products by mooring:

#### **Puget Sound**

- Carr Inlet
- Dabob Bay
- Hoodsport
- <u>Hansville</u>
- Point Wells
- Twanoh

#### Salish Sea

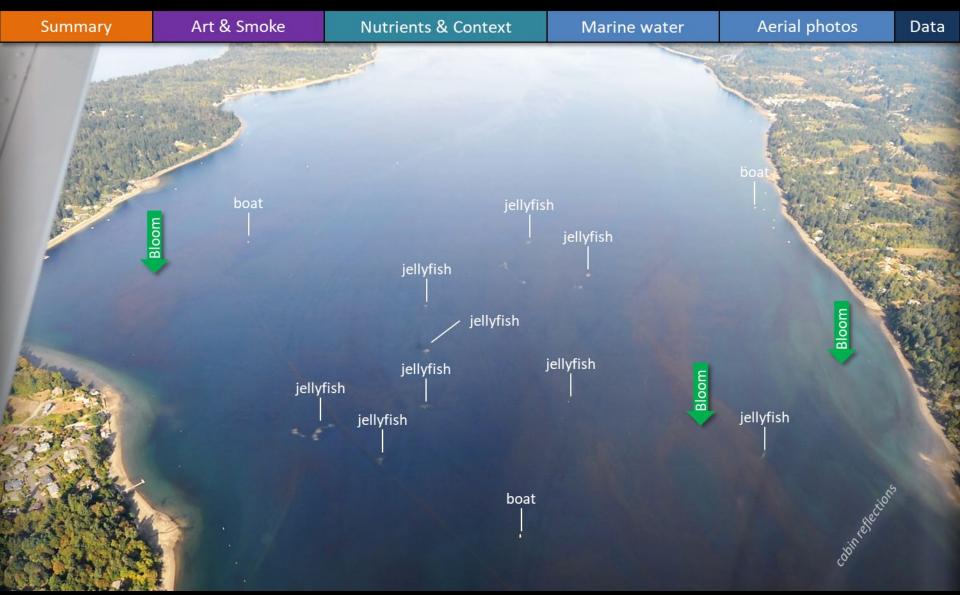
- Bellingham Bay
- Friday Harbor



Thayne Yazzie, NWIC, Robert Daniels, UW/APL

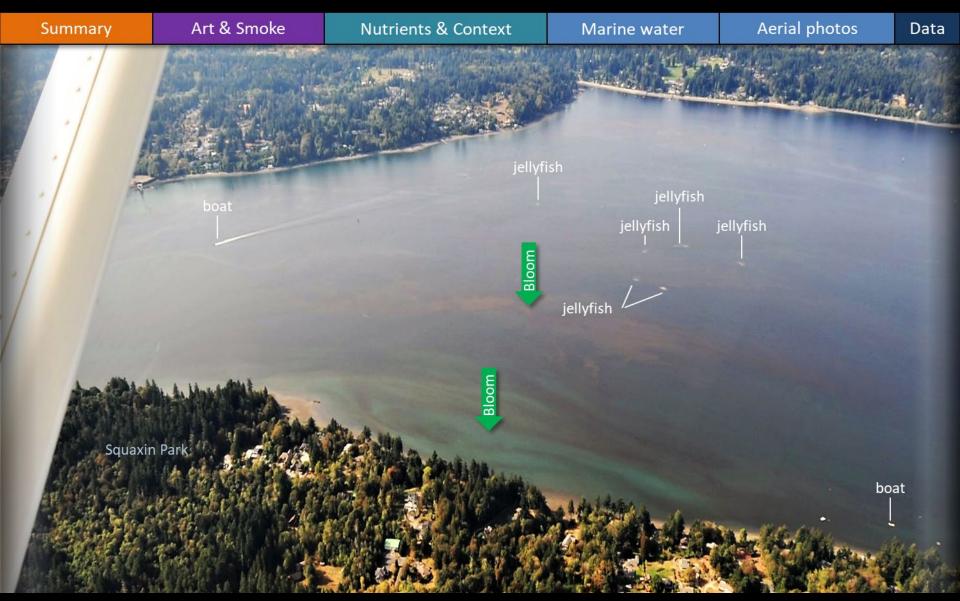






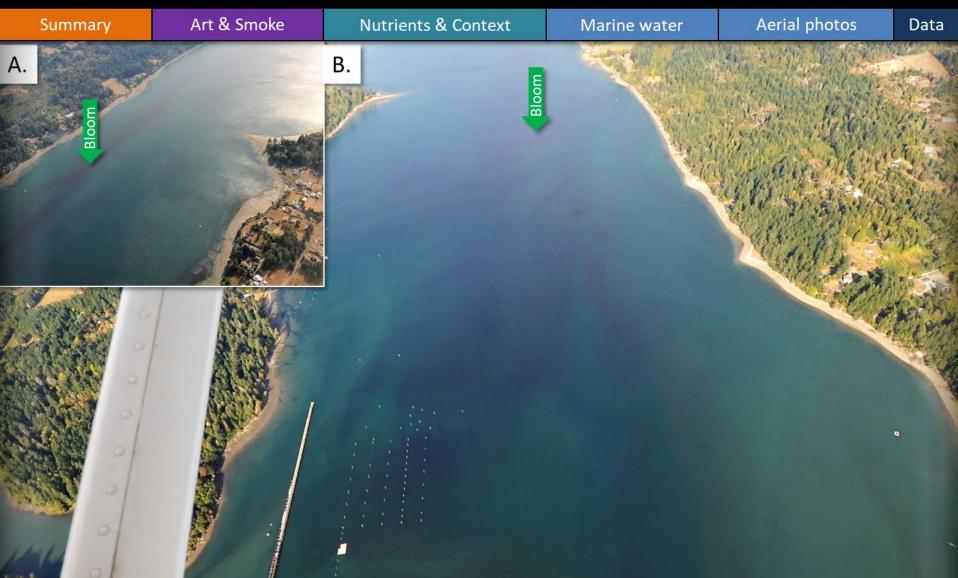








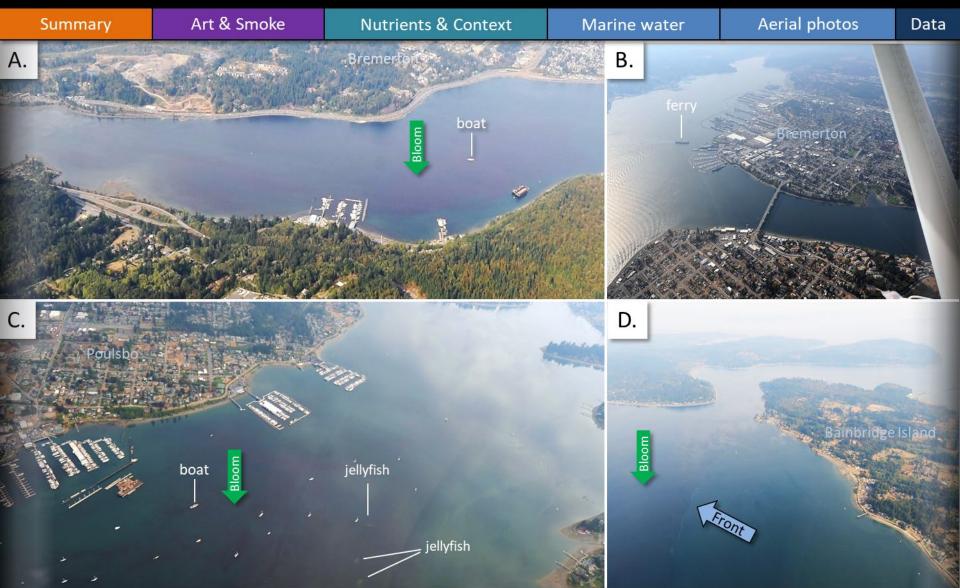




A. Long ribbon of red bloom parallel to the shore of the outer bay, B. Patchy red-brown bloom inside the bay. Location: Henderson Inlet (South Sound), 12:03 PM





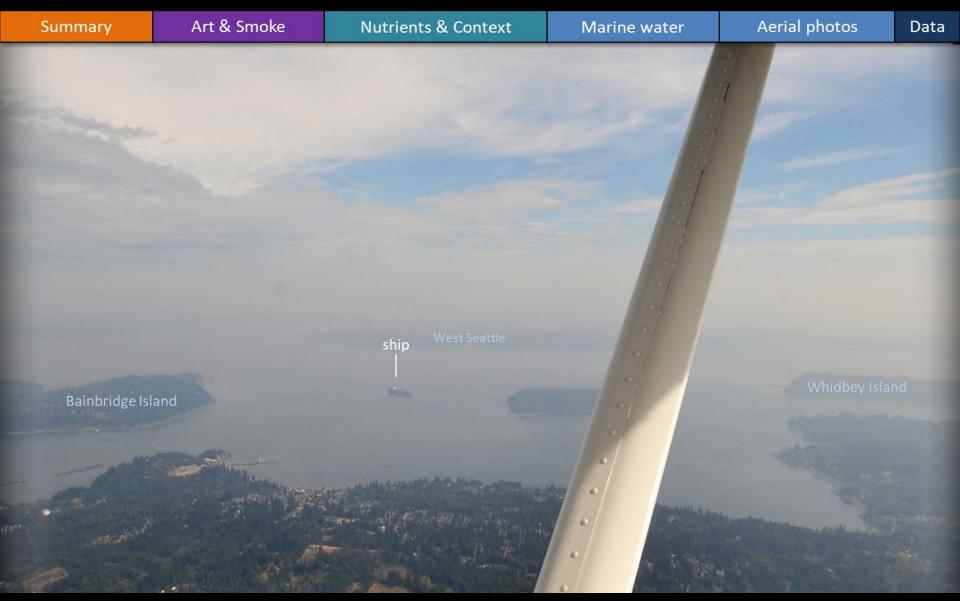


A Red bloom inside inlet B. Smoky air, C. Red bloom and jellyfish patches. D. Red-brown bloom north of front. Location: A. Sinclair Inlet, B. Bremerton, C. Liberty Bay, D. Entrance to Rich Passage (Central Sound). 12:20 PM





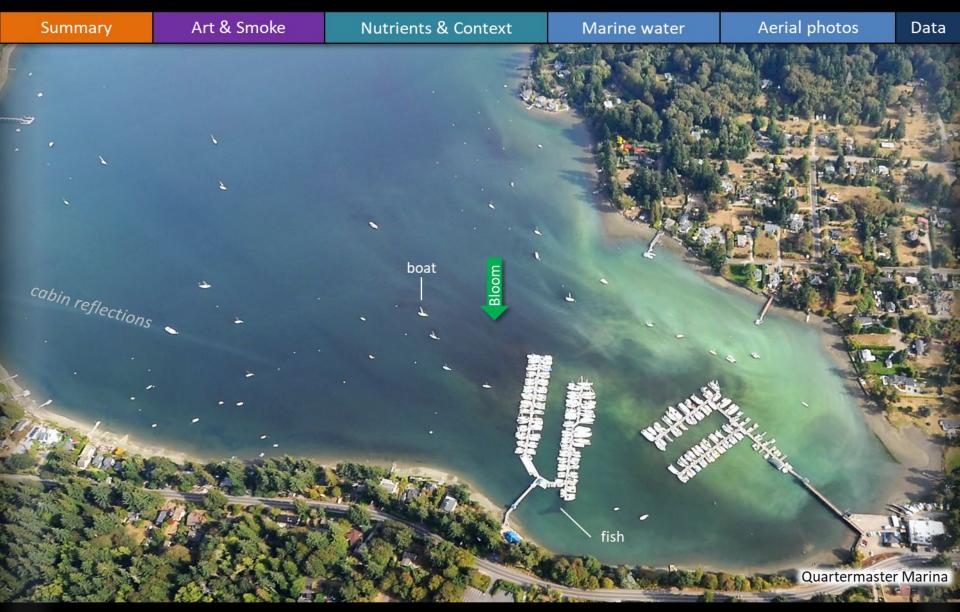
Navigate



Smoky air moving in from the north forced the EOPS flight to return to South Puget Sound Location: Rich Passage- Blake Island (Central Sound), 12:35 PM



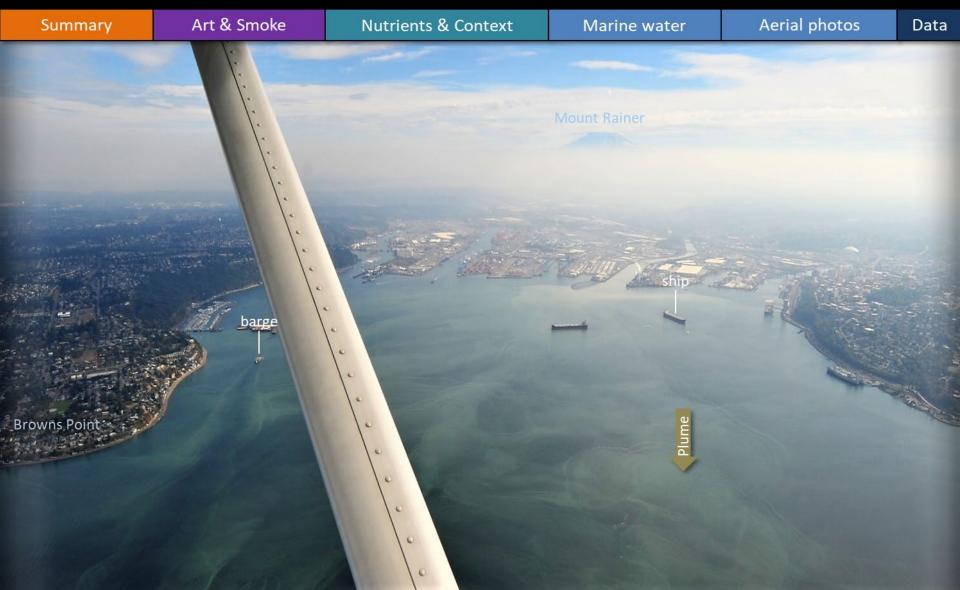








Navigate



Puyallup River plume, rich in glacial flour, discharging into Commencement Bay.

Location: Commencement Bay (Central Sound), 12:44 PM





Navigate

Art & Smoke Nutrients & Context Aerial photos Marine water Data Summary wake boat

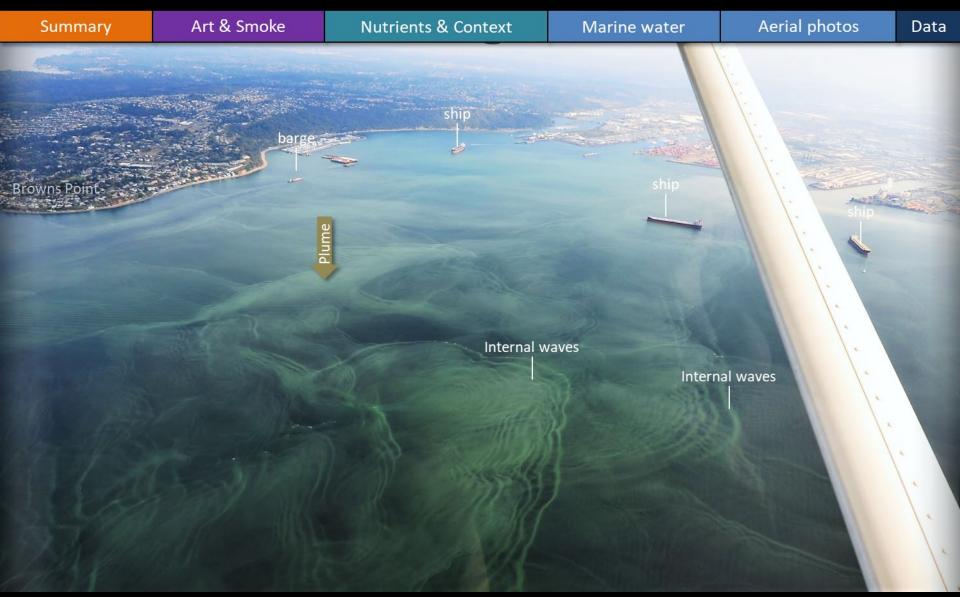
A wake left by a barge reveals how thin the sediment-laden Puyallup River plume is.

Location: Commencement Bay (Central Sound), 12:45 PM





Navigate



The Puyallup River plume, with internal waves and patchy structure. Location: Commencement Bay (Central Sound), 12:45 PM





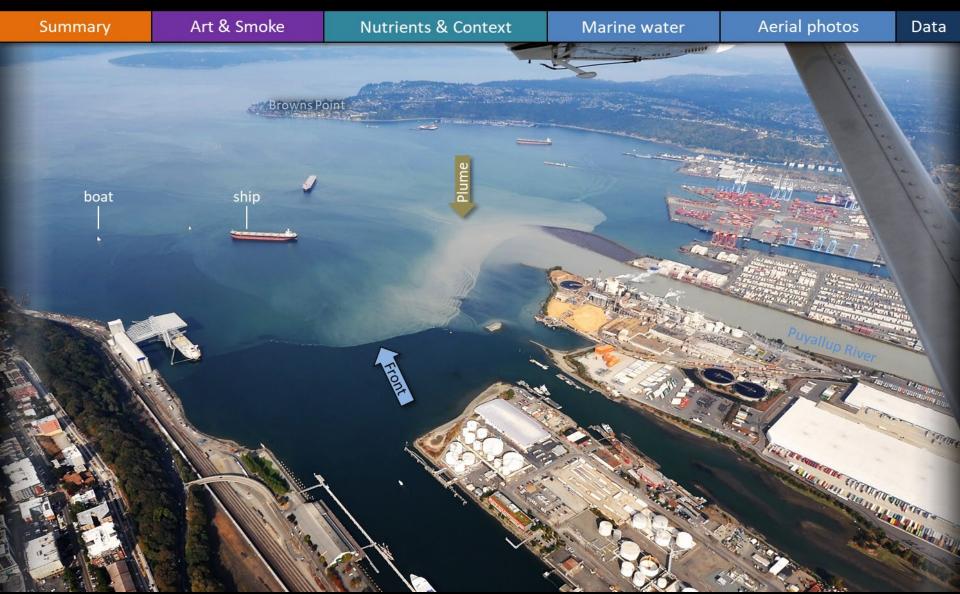
Navigate

Art & Smoke Aerial photos **Nutrients & Context** Marine water Data Summary ship

> A well-defined plume and fronts at the mouth of the Puyallup River. Location: Commencement Bay (Central Sound), 12:46 PM



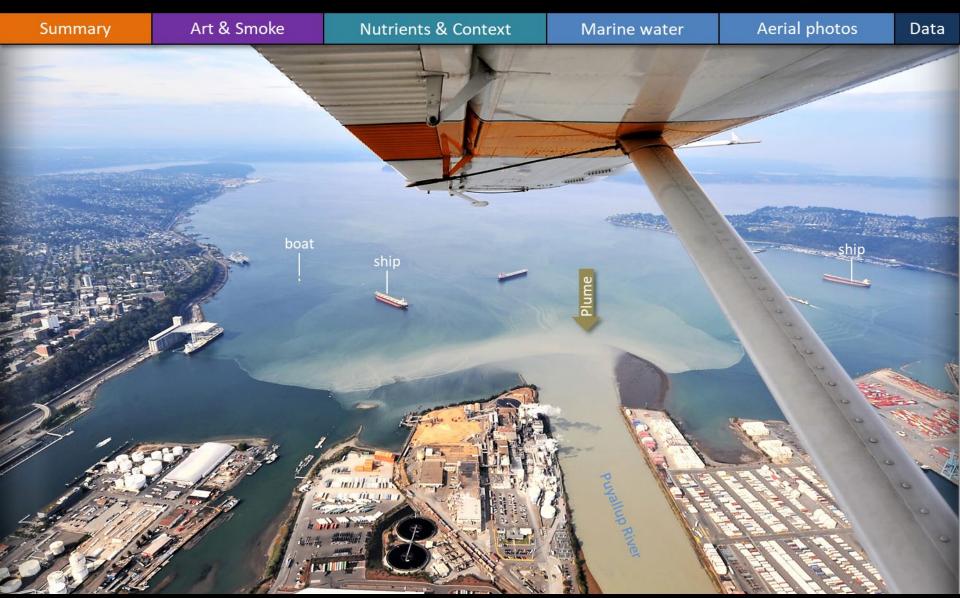








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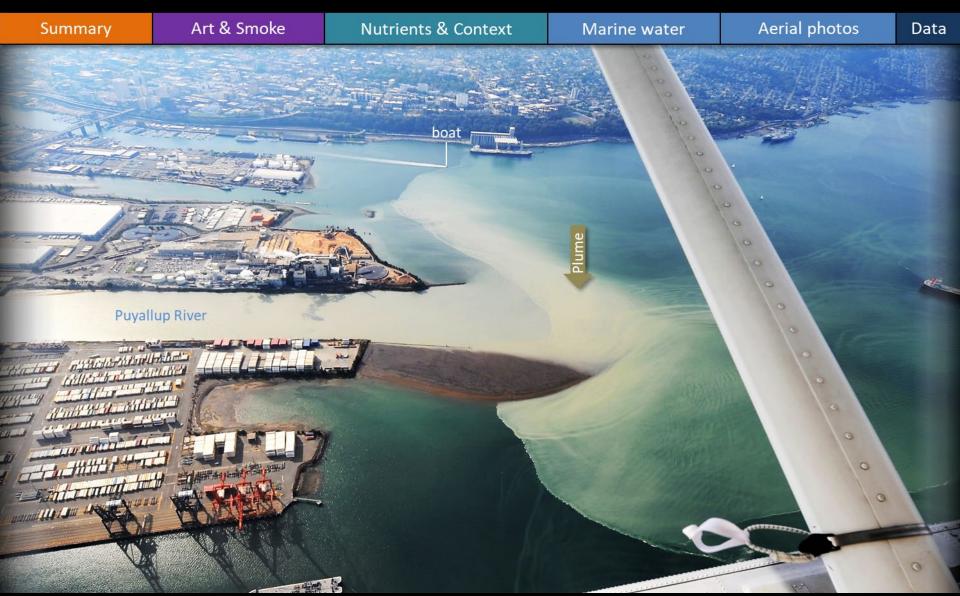


Puyallup River plume, seen from the river side. Location: Commencement Bay (Central Sound), 12:47 PM





Navigate



Puyallup River plume seen from the river side. Location: Commencement Bay (Central Sound), 12:47 PM

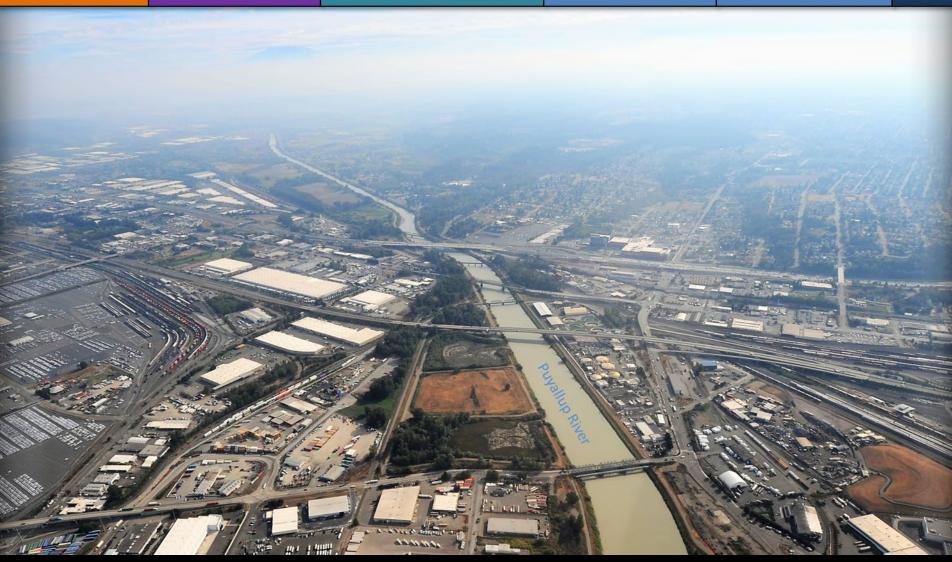






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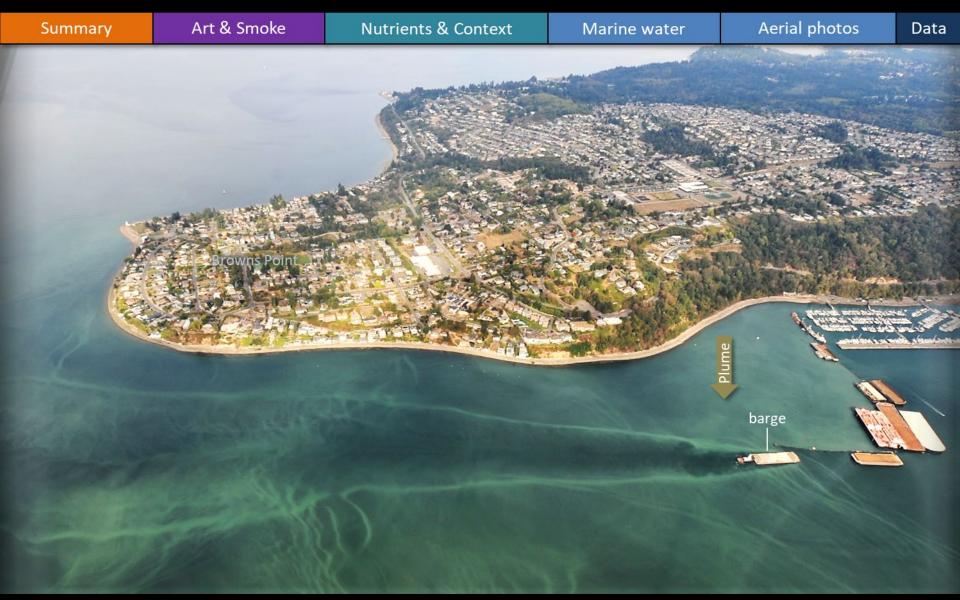
Art & Smoke **Nutrients & Context** Aerial photos Data Summary Marine water



Puyallup River, a highly urbanized waterway. Location: Commencement Bay (Central Sound), 12:47 PM

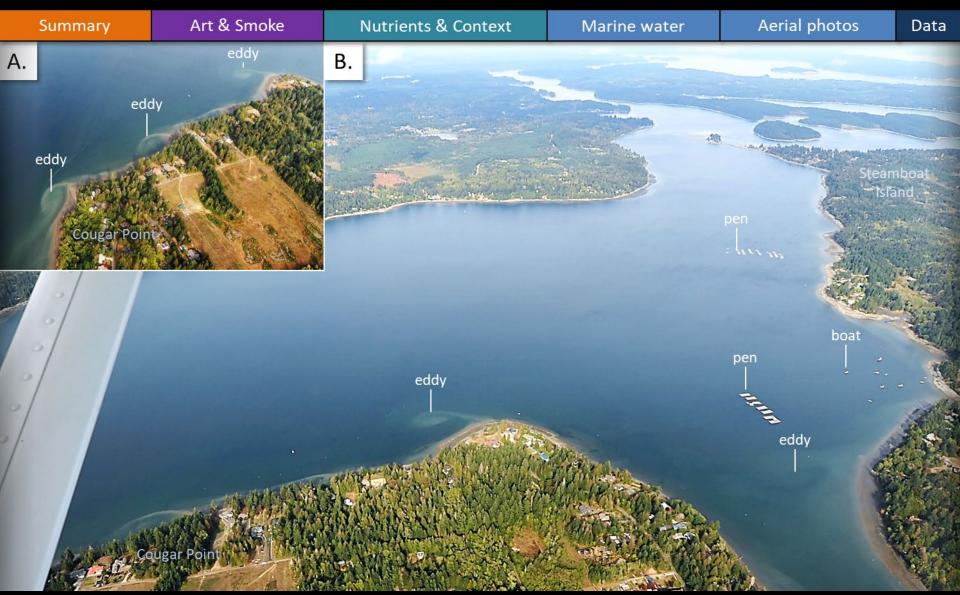












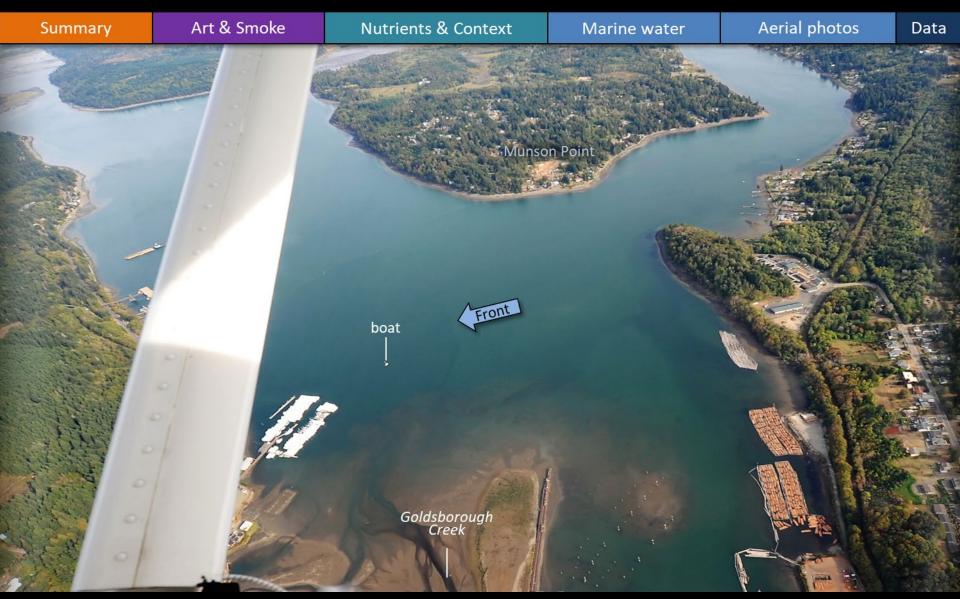
A. Nearshore eddies with sediment suspension and deposition. B Larger geographical context.

Location: Totten Inlet (South Sound), 1:10 PM





Navigate



Oakland Bay seen from above Shelton, with Goldsborough Creek estuary.

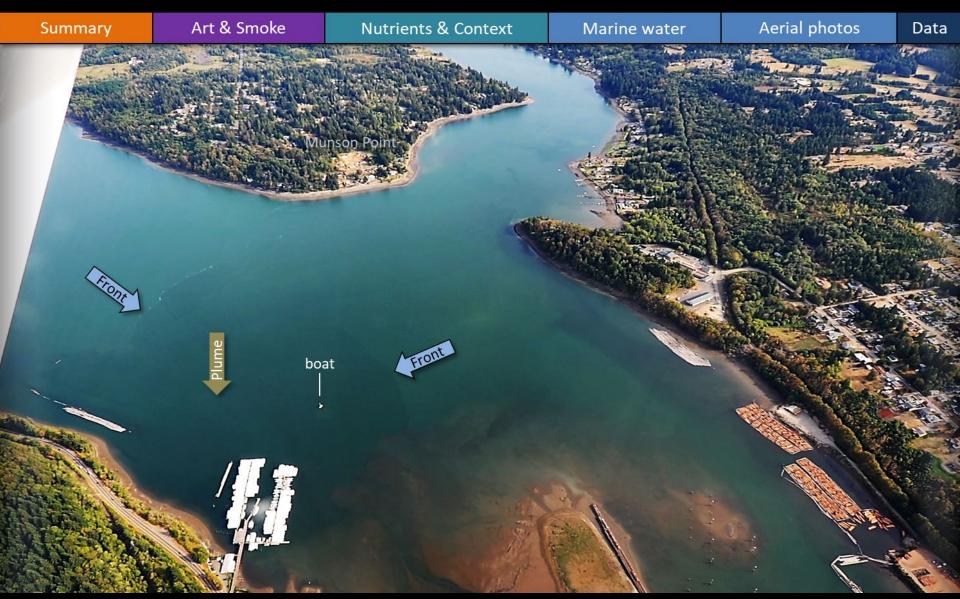
Location: Oakland Bay (South Sound), 1:15 PM







Navigate

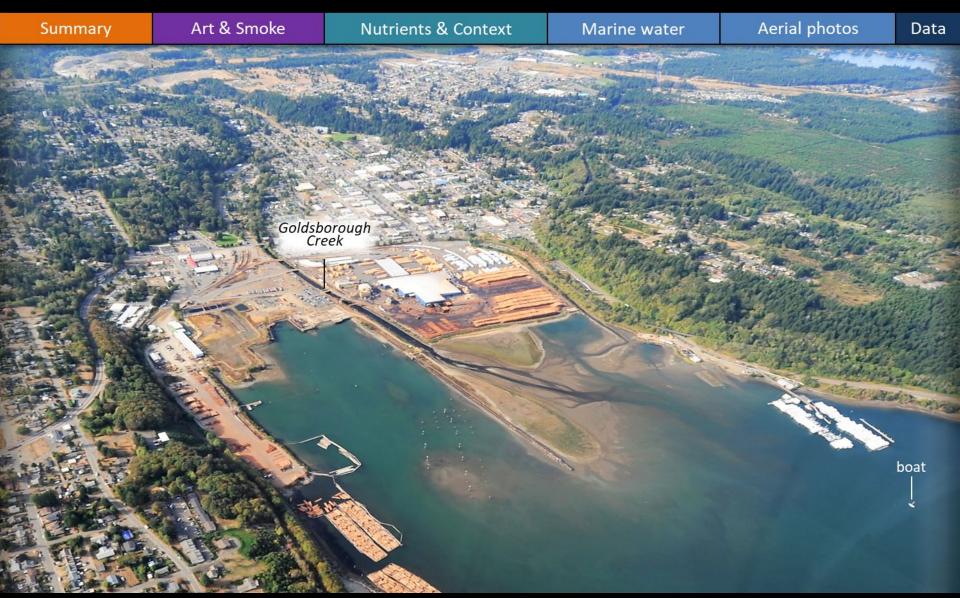


Plume of Goldsborough Creek extending into the bay. Location: Oakland Bay (South Sound), 1:15 PM





Navigate



Oakland Bay looking onto Shelton, with Goldsborough Creek estuary and Sierra Pacific Sawmill.

Location: Oakland Bay (South Sound), 1:15 PM







A. Exposed mudflats in western portions of the bay. B-C. Chapman Cove with aquaculture rafts at low tide. Exposed mudflats with water from Campbell Creek. Location: Oakland Bay (South Sound), 1:17 PM





Navigate

Art & Smoke Aerial photos **Nutrients & Context** Data Summary Marine water Skookum Natural Area Preserve

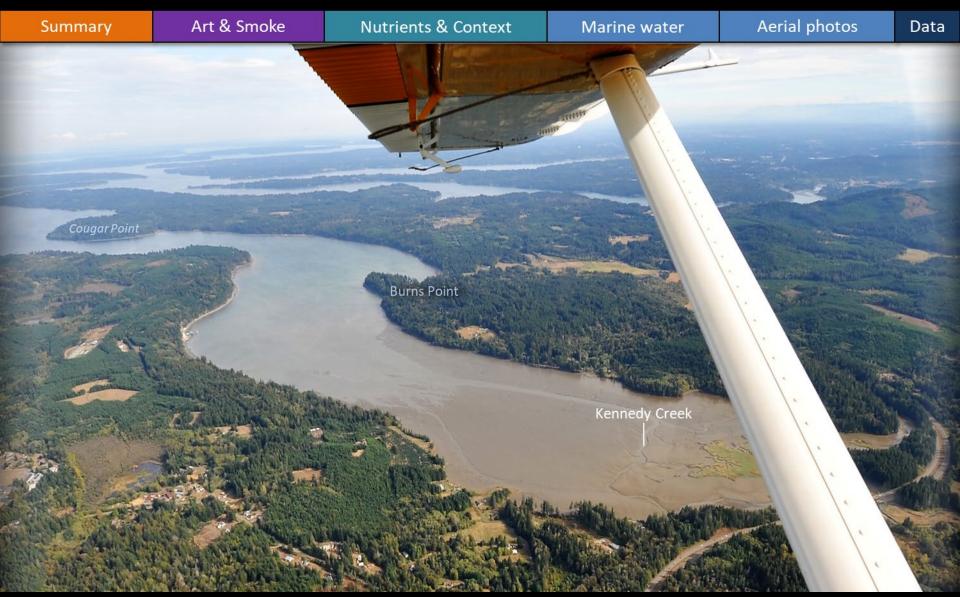
Exposed mudflats of the southern portions of the bay during low tide.

Location: Little Skookum Inlet (South Sound), 1:22 PM





Navigate

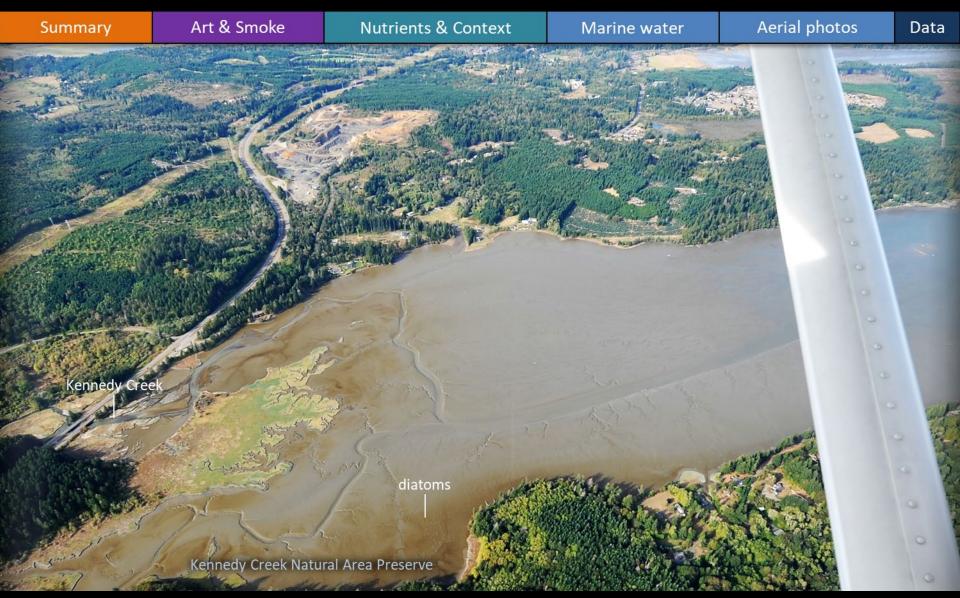


Exposed mudflats of the southern portions of Oyster Bay during low tide.

Location: Totten Inlet (South Sound), 1:24 PM



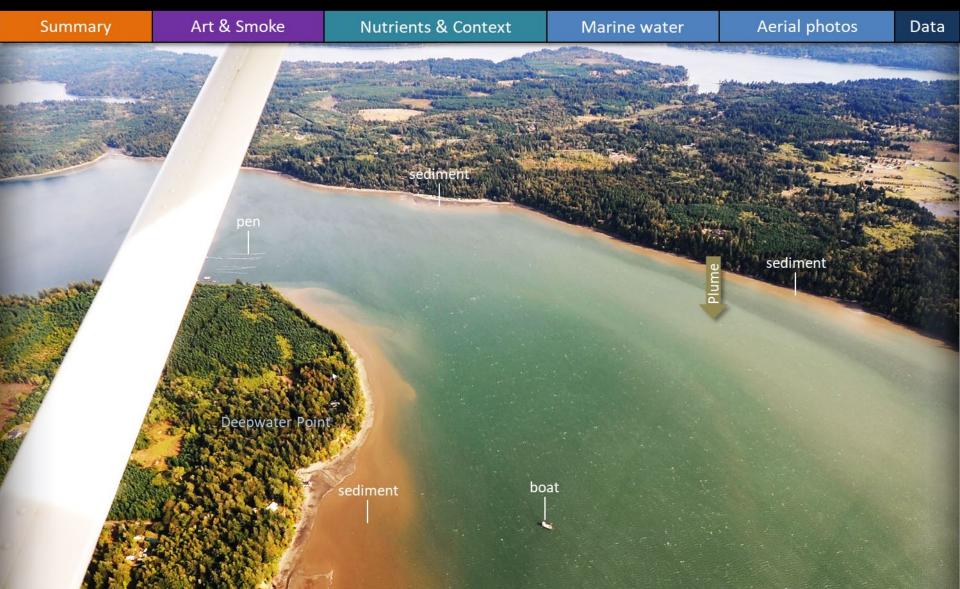








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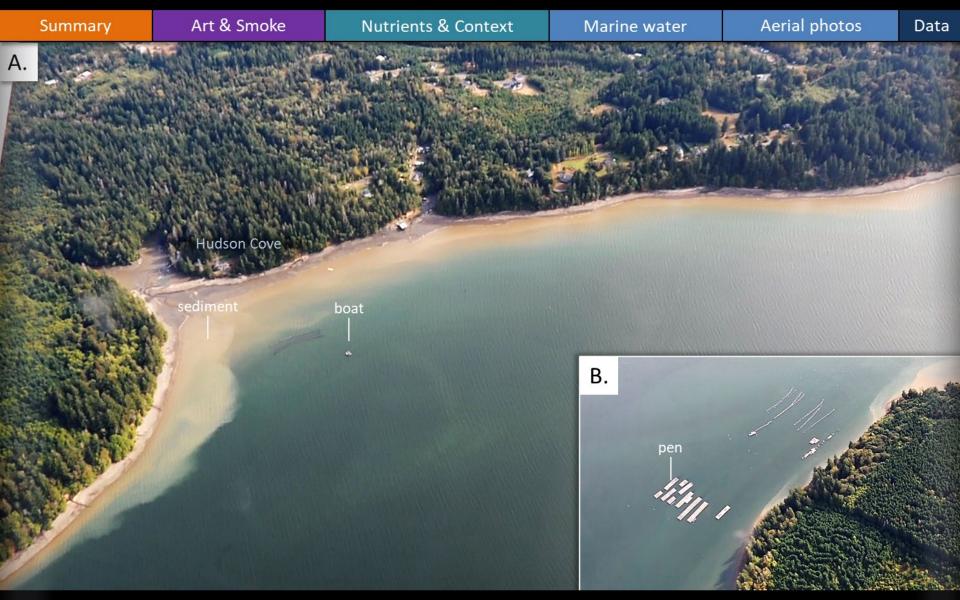


Very brown suspended nearshore sediment on both sides of the bay. Plume of Kennedy Creek.

Location: Totten Inlet (South Sound), 1:25 PM







## People contributing their own observations



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We add your observations to EOPS because we believe they matter.

- In the following pages you will find water quality issues that engaged and concerned citizens submitted to us.
- We feel that your observations should be shared side-by-side with aerial photo records.
- We encourage you to share your observations with us. Together we can document more.



### People contribute their observations



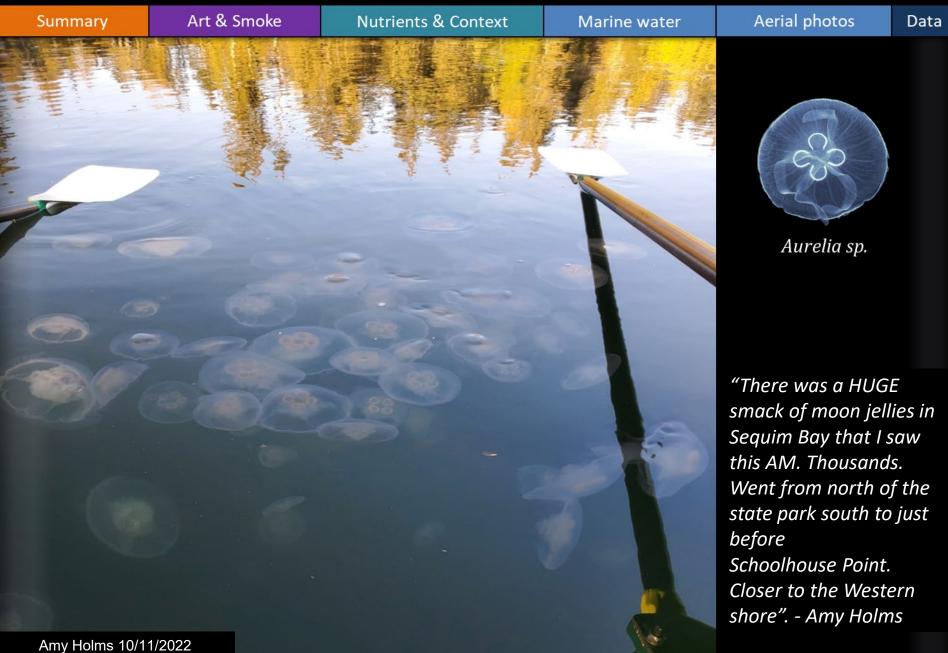
Navigate

Art & Smoke **Nutrients & Context** Aerial photos Marine water Data Summary Wikipedia (shortened text): Coccolithophores microscopic phytoplankton cells that are ecologically important and play significant roles in the carbon cycle. They are of interest to those studying global climate change because their coccoliths are a carbon sink. Management strategies are being employed to prevent eutrophication-related coccolithophore blooms, as these blooms lead to a decrease in nutrient flow to lower levels of the ocean. Natalie Coleman 9/1/2022



# People contribute their observations

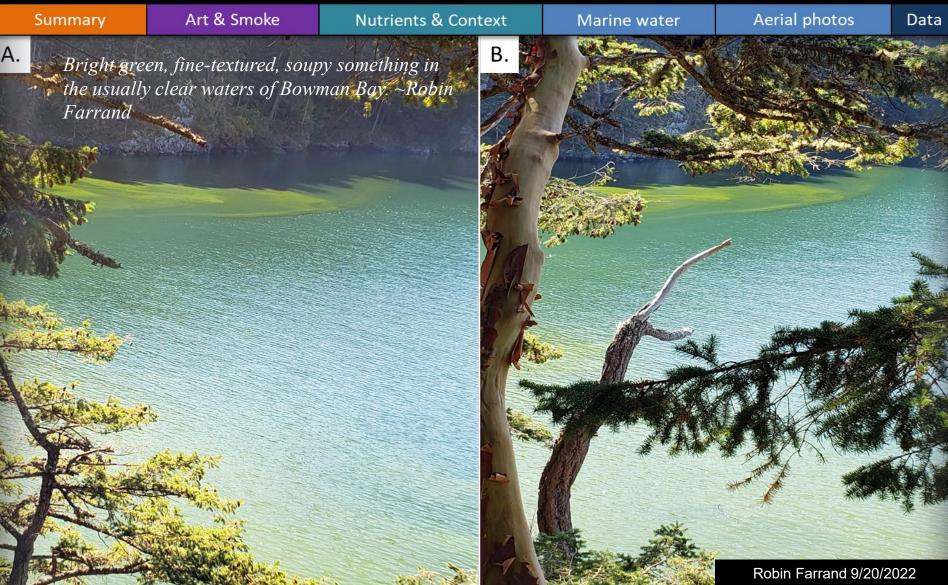






## People contribute their observations







# Get your marine monitoring data from us



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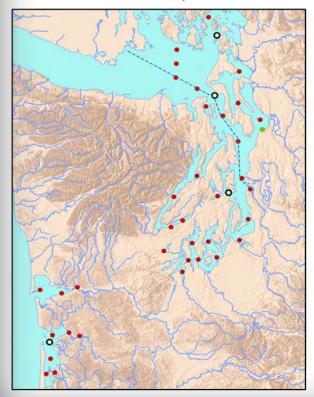
Marine water

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# Long-term monitoring data from Puget Sound and coastal bays

- 39 stations sampled monthly
- 16 physical, chemical, biogeochemical parameters
- data from 1999-present







# Find past editions of EOPS on the next pages



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#### We have published 99 editions!

Find all previous Eyes Over Puget Sound editions at the end of this document.

#### **Recommended Citation (example for September 2018 edition):**

Washington State Department of Ecology. 2018. Eyes Over Puget Sound: Surface Conditions Report, September 17, 2018. Publication No. 18-03-075. Olympia, WA. <a href="https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/1803075.pdf">https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/1803075.pdf</a>.



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September\_8\_2021 Publication No. 21-03-075



January\_14\_2021, Publication No. 21-03-070



Jan\_10\_2020, Publication No. 20-03-070



October\_10\_2022 Publication No. 22-03-073



June\_17\_2021 Publication No. 21-03-074



October\_26\_2020, Publication No. 20-03-073



October\_30\_2019, Publication No. 19-03-076



June\_14\_2022, Publication No. 22-03-072



April\_1\_2021
Publication No. 21-03-073



September\_28\_2020, Publication No. 20-03-072



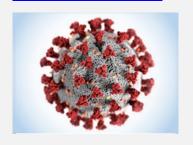
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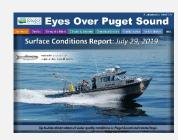
**February\_25\_2022**, Publication No. 22-03-071



March\_11\_2021 Publication No. 21-03-072



No coverage due to COVID-19 pandemic from April-September



July\_29\_2019
Publication No. 19-03-074



**January\_7\_2022**Publication No. 22-03-070



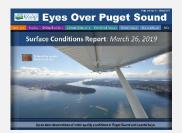
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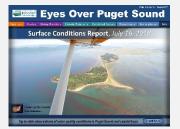
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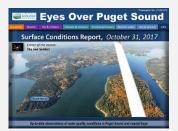
June\_4\_2019, Publication No. 19-03-073



March\_26\_2019 Publication No. 19-03-072



**July\_16\_2018,** Publication No. 18-03-073



October\_31\_2017, Publication No. 17-03-073



November\_22\_2016, Publication No. 16-03-078



February\_21\_2019, Publication No. 19-03-071



June\_28\_2018, Publication No. 18-03-072



**August\_28\_2017,**Publication No. 17-03-072



**September\_26\_2016,** Publication No. 16-03-077



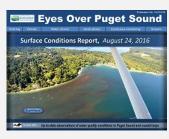
January\_10\_2019, Publication No. 19-03-070



May\_22\_2018, Publication No. 18-03-025



July\_24\_2017, Publication No. 17-03-071



**August\_24\_2016,**Publication No. 16-03-076



November\_6\_2018, Publication No. 18-03-075



**April\_19\_2018,**Publication No. 18-03-071



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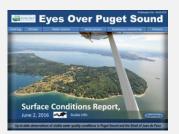
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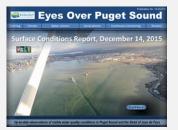
**December\_31\_2016**, Publication No. 16-03-079



June\_27\_2016, Publication No. 16-03-074



May\_2\_2016, Publication No. 16-03-073



**December\_14\_2015,**Publication No. 15-03-079



June\_8\_2015, Publication No. 15-03-074



**December\_30\_2014,**Publication No. 14-03-080



**April\_6\_2016,**Publication No. 16-03-072



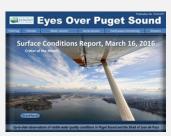
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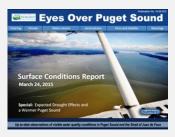
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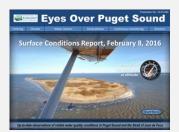
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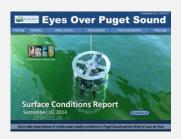
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February\_17\_2015, Publication No. 15-03-071



**September\_16\_2014,**Publication No. 14-03-077



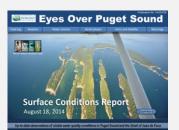
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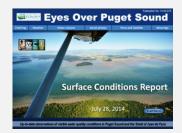
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January\_28\_2015, Publication No. 15-03-070



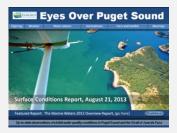
**August\_18\_2014,**Publication No. 14-03-076



July\_28\_2014, Publication No. 14-03-075



**February\_4\_2014,**Publication No. 14-03-070



**August\_21\_2013,**Publication No. 13-03-077



Mar\_25\_2013, Publication No. 13-03-072



June\_23\_2014, Publication No. 14-03-074



**December\_31\_2013,**Publication No. 13-03-081



**July\_15\_2013,**Publication No. 13-03-076



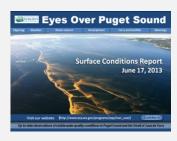
February\_26\_2013, Publication No. 13-03-071



May\_12\_2014, Publication No. 14-03-073



**November\_21\_2013,** Publication No. 13-03-080



June\_17\_2013, Publication No. 13-03-075



**January\_15\_2013,**Publication No. 13-03-070



**April\_21\_2014,**Publication No. 14-03-072



October\_28\_2013, Publication No. 13-03-079



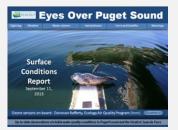
May\_20\_2013, Publication No. 13-03-074



**December\_13\_2012,**Publication No. 12-03-081



March\_24\_2014, Publication No. 14-03-071



**September\_11\_2013**, Publication No. 13-03-078



**April\_8\_2013,**Publication No. 13-03-073



November\_8\_2012, Publication No. 12-03-080



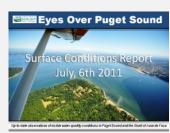
October\_8\_2012, Publication No. 12-03-079



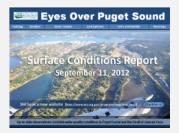
May\_14\_2012, Publication No. 12-03-074



December\_5\_2011, Publication No. 11-03-082



**July\_6\_2011,** Publication No. 11-03-077



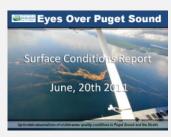
September\_11\_2012, Publication No. 12-03-078



**April\_23\_2012,**Publication No. 12-03-073



November\_15\_2011, Publication No. 11-03-081



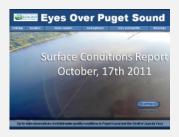
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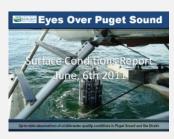
**August\_27\_2012,**Publication No. 12-03-077



March\_19\_2012, Publication No. 12-03-072



October\_17\_2011, Publication No. 11-03-080



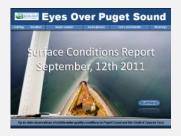
June\_6\_2011, Publication No. 11-03-075



July\_31\_2012, Publication No. 12-03-076



**February\_27\_2012,**Publication No. 12-03-071



September\_12\_2011,
Publication No. 11-03-079



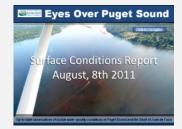
May\_4\_2011, Publication No. 11-03-074



**June\_12\_2012,**Publication No. 12-03-075



**January\_30\_2012,**Publication No. 12-03-070



**August\_8\_2011,**Publication No. 11-03-078



April\_27\_2011, Publication No. 11-03-073