DEPARTMENT OF State of Washington
 Egges Over Puget Sound

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Surface Conditions Report: September 12, 2019



The benefits of beach wrack

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



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Jason Toft

UW SAFS

Diving & critters







Tyler Burks Jim Shedd





Skip Albertson



Dr. Christopher Krembs (Editor)

Guest contribution

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Precipitation was low, but over the last half-year,

Water temperature and food web p. 13

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Editorial assistance provided by: Elisa Rauschl, Julianne Ruffner, Ruth Froese, Valerie Partridge.



Puget Sound Innovation Stories



Have you seen the blog?



PUGET SOUND: IT'S WORTH SAVING

Organizations from across Washington state are coming together to stand up for Puget Sound protection and recovery. The stories in this blog are curated from partners and community members who are each invested in keeping this place great.



A. Schools of anchovies are still present in some finger inlets. B. Bloom and jellyfish. Location: Eld Inlet (South Sound) 1:29 PM



Reestablishment of beach wrack, logs, and shoreline vegetation. Logs, wrack, and high-shore invertebrates <u>decline with shoreline armoring</u>.



Young scientists exploring the "hoppers" in the wrack...



...and their dad, Jason.

Beach-hopper amphipods live in the wrack, feeding and taking refuge. They are also prey for fish and birds.



Jason Toft (UW SAFS), measuring percent of beach wrack.



Juhi LaFuente (UW SAFS) measuring percent of beach wrack at the Bowman Bay armor-removal restoration site.

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Stories



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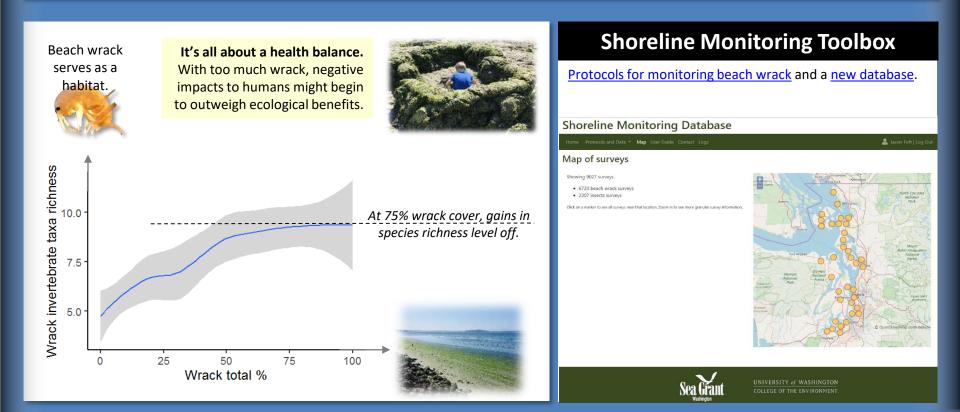
ined factors Marine water

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A balance between ecological benefits and human impacts

- At normal levels, beach wrack provides food and shelter for many invertebrates.
- Beach wrack can also act as a reservoir for bacteria. With too much wrack, your **risk of getting sick** increases. See <u>Washington BEACH Program</u>.





Summary Stories

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Ecology scientists contribute to "global biodiversity library"



Marine Sediment Monitoring Team

Los Angeles Urban Ocean Expedition (LAUOE)

Recently I had the pleasure of participating in a "bioblitz" in sunny Los Angeles, where expert scientists from around the country gathered to collect and document the amazing marine invertebrate biodiversity of Southern California. Bioblitz events like this one are happening worldwide, and many employ genetic techniques like DNA barcoding to identify new and existing species. Learn more about the LAUOE on Ecology's EcoConnect blog.



Volunteers sorted colorful live organisms into trays that were then passed to taxonomists to identify and photograph. Images courtesy of LAUOE staff.





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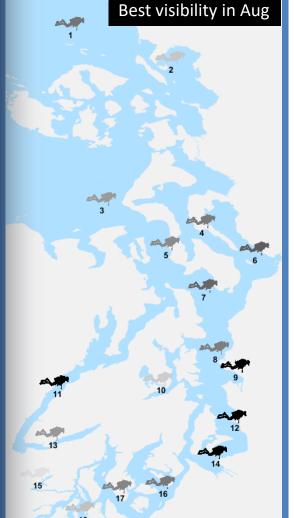
Marine water

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What was the water visibility like for divers?



(only best visibility shown)

Best and worst horizontal visibility at corresponding vertical depth

	•	•		•
	Best Visibility		Worst Visibility	
Location	Horizontal Distance (ft.)	Vertical Depth (ft.)	Horizontal Distance (ft.)	Vertical Depth (ft.)
1	32	64	7	2
2	13	2	9	30
3	23	5	17	97
4	31	71	6	31
5	27	71	23	3
6	38	85	15	18
7	36	66	7	8
8	30	67	4	7
9	79	98	23	21
10	11	18	5	52
11	59	90	8	20
12	63	95	13	11
13	23	69	6	5
14	65	97	0	3
15	6	36	4	5
16	31	98	23	7
17	28	98	17	5
18	14	31	3	8

Find depths with high/low visibility

- Best visibility occurred in Elliott **Bay near Seacrest Park (location** 9), with nearly 80 ft visibility at 98 ft depth. Other locations along East Passage (e.g., Three-Tree & Dash Point) also had good visibility at similar depths.
- Poor visibility (no diver icon) occurred near the surface in Commencement Bay (location 14) and also in Oakland Bay near Shelton (location 18).
- The poster, "Underwater Visibility Maps — a Tool for Scuba Divers," is available here



This is a new feature and we are soliciting feedback (skip.albertson@ecv.wa.gov).





Stories Diving & critters

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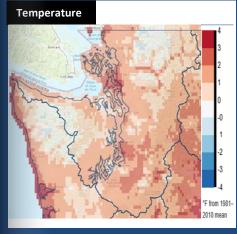
Aerial photos Marine water

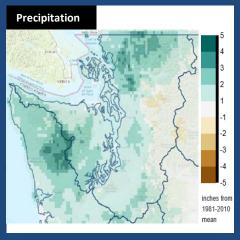
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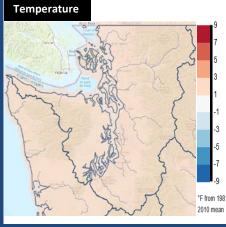


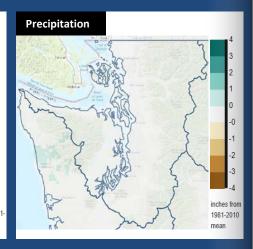
In the last 30 days, Puget Sound air temperatures and precipitation were generally above normal (A). In the next 30 days, temperatures are forecasted to be warmer than normal, while precipitation is expected to normalize (B). With a shift to fall-like weather patterns, rivers are beginning to recover.

A. Northwest Climate Toolbox (Previous 30 days)









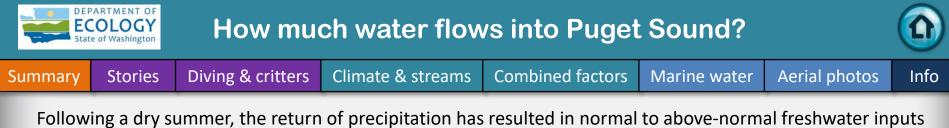
Temperature Anomaly from historical mean ranged from -1 to +4 °F in the Puget Sound region during the past 30 days.

Precipitation Anomaly from historical mean ranged from -2 to +5 inches in the Puget Sound region during the past 30 days.

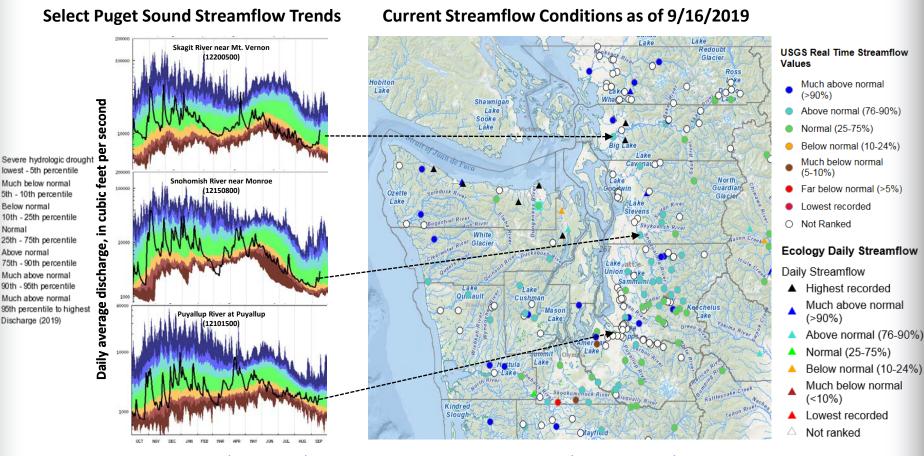
Temperature Anomaly from historical mean is forecasted to be +2 °F in the Puget Sound region during the next 30 days.

Precipitation Anomaly from historical mean is forecasted to be near normal in the Puget Sound region during the next 30 days.

B. Northwest Climate Toolbox (Next 30 days)



to Puget Sound (trend charts, left). Current flow distribution across the watershed is mixed (map, right), due to the variable delivery of rain over the region. Flows will continue to be variable until the regular pattern of precipitation is established.

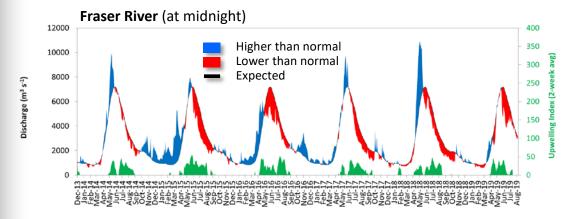


USGS WaterWatch: CLICK HERE!

Current conditions: CLICK HERE!

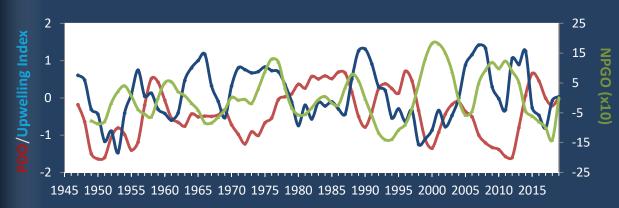


Historically, the peaks of coastal upwelling and the <u>freshet</u> are in sync. In 2019, the freshet is weak.



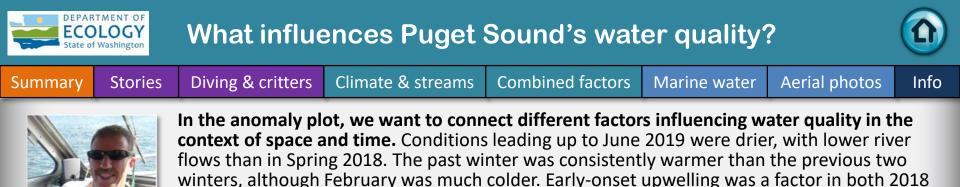
The Fraser River is the major driver of <u>estuarine circulation</u> and water exchange between the Salish Sea and the ocean. Fraser River has regained expected levels. Dramatic snow melt in May resulted in well-below-normal flows in early summer.

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



How do ocean boundary conditions affect the quality of water we exchange with the ocean? Recent years' warm water is gone (PDO). Upwelling (Upwelling Index anomaly) and NPGO, which reflects the surface productivity along the coast, are at neutral levels.

Pacific Decadal Oscillation Index (**PDO, temperature**, <u>explanation</u>). Upwelling Index (anomalies) (**Upwelling, low** oxygen, <u>explanation</u>). North Pacific Gyre Oscillation Index (**NPGO, productivity**, <u>explanation</u>).



and 2019. For recent river and stream inflow, see page 8.

Conditions leading up to September:

Air temperatures were generally warm this year, following recent years.

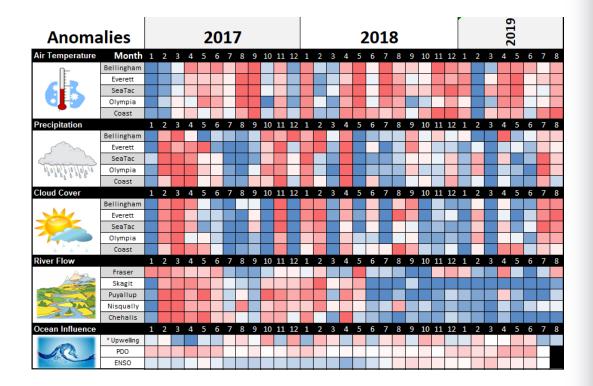
Precipitation for the past five months was lower than in 2018, but July and August were wetter.

Sunshine (opposite of cloud cover) has been high, except in July and August.

River flows have been low since last year, June 2018.

Upwelling started early in spring in 2018 and 2019. In summer of 2019, it weakened prematurely.

All data are from public sources: UW GRAYSKIES; river flows from USGS and Environment Canada; indices from NOAA & UW (PDO).



*Upwelling/downwelling Anomalies (PFEL)

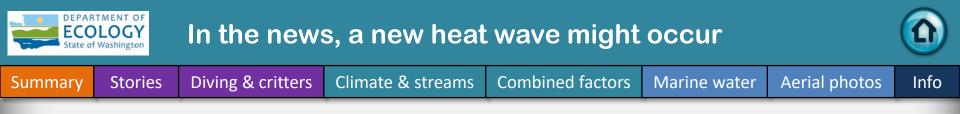
PDO = Pacific Decadal Oscillation

ENSO = El Niño Southern Oscillation

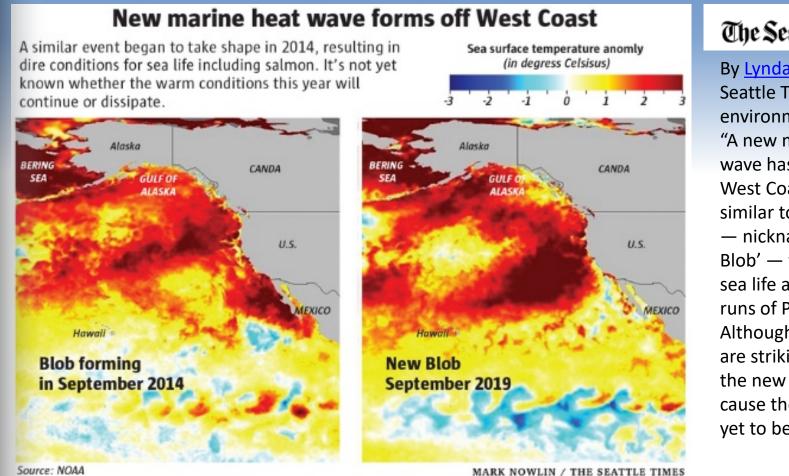
higher

expected

lower



Like The Blob, the new heat wave emerged over the course of a few months.



The Seattle Times

By Lynda V. Mapes, Seattle Times environment reporter. "A new marine heat wave has formed off the West Coast that is similar to a 2015 event — nicknamed 'The Blob' — that devastated sea life and ravaged runs of Pacific salmon. Although the similarities are striking, whether the new system will cause the same havoc is vet to be seen."



Summarv

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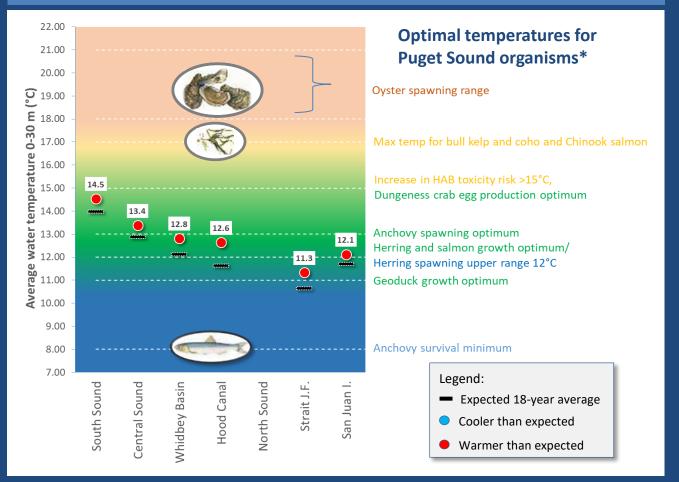
Can organisms thrive and survive?

The life cycles of organisms respond to temperature. To be successful, the timing of early life stages must line up with good growth conditions.

Temperature is important for growth, but also dictates if certain organisms can overwinter in Puget Sound (e.g., Northern anchovy).

* Help us get these right. We scoured the literature for temperatures important to the success and survival of marine

In August, average surface water (0 - 30 m) temperatures were 0.6 °C above the baseline (1999 – 2018) across all regions. Central Sound, Whidbey Basin, and Hood Canal reached optimal spawning temperatures for anchovies. Optimum growth temperatures for herring and salmon were reached in the San Juan Islands, and near-optimum geoduck growth temperatures occurred in the Straits.





What are the conditions at the surface?

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Water is unusually clear, and red-brown fall blooms are restricted to smaller inlets. Case Inlet has a dark maroon color. Macroalgae are still abundant in Carr and Case Inlets and have been sighted near Normandy Park. Jellyfish abundance is high in Sinclair Inlet but much lower than previous years. In South Sound, schools of anchovies still are present.							

Elisa Rauschl, our new team member, joined the EOPS flight.



Turquoise water in East bay, Budd Inlet



Mixing and fronts:

Tidal eddies near Fox Island, fronts off Maury Island.

Jellyfish and fish:

Many jellyfish patches in Sinclair Inlet; few patches in Eld and Budd Inlets. Schools of fish in Eld Inlet.



Bloom

Suspended sediment:

Glacial flour from the Puyallup and Nisqually Rivers extending into Puget Sound.

Visible blooms:

Red-brown bloom in Henderson, Eld and Budd Inlets. Turquoise water in some bays, cause unknown. Dark maroon bloom in Case Inlet.

Debris:

Rafts of macroalgae in Central and South Sound still present.



Start here

Stories

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Aerial navigation guide Date: 9/12/2019 Padilla Bay **Click on numbers**

Tide data from 9/12/2019 (Seattle):				
<u>Time</u>	<u>Pre</u>	<u>d</u> <u>High/Low</u>		
04:16 AM	9.44	Н		
10:41 AM	0.43	L		
5:43 PM	10.90	Н		
11:37 PM	4.43	L		

Flight Observations Sunny and hazy

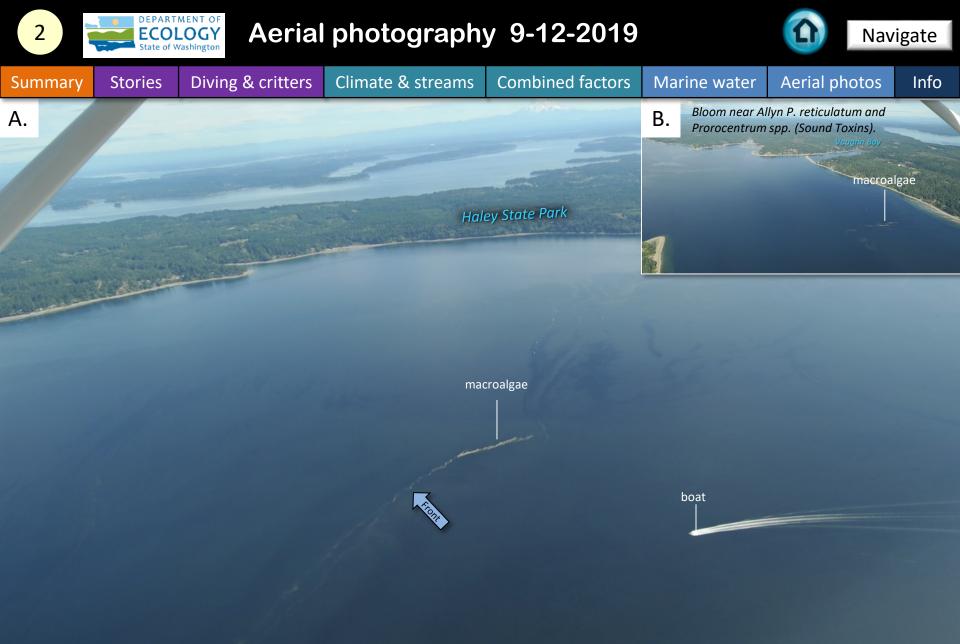
People sharing images







Red-brown bloom. Location: Budd Inlet (South Sound), 1:29 PM



A. Macroalgae accumulating along tidal front. B. Macroalgae patch drifting across Long Island. Location: Case Inlet (South Sound), 1:40 PM



Red-brown bloom and aggregations of organic material in Henderson Bay. Location: Carr Inlet (South Sound), 1:46 PM



Patches of jellyfish and red-brown bloom mixed with what appears to be turquoise water. Location: Sinclair Inlet (Central Sound), 1:51 PM

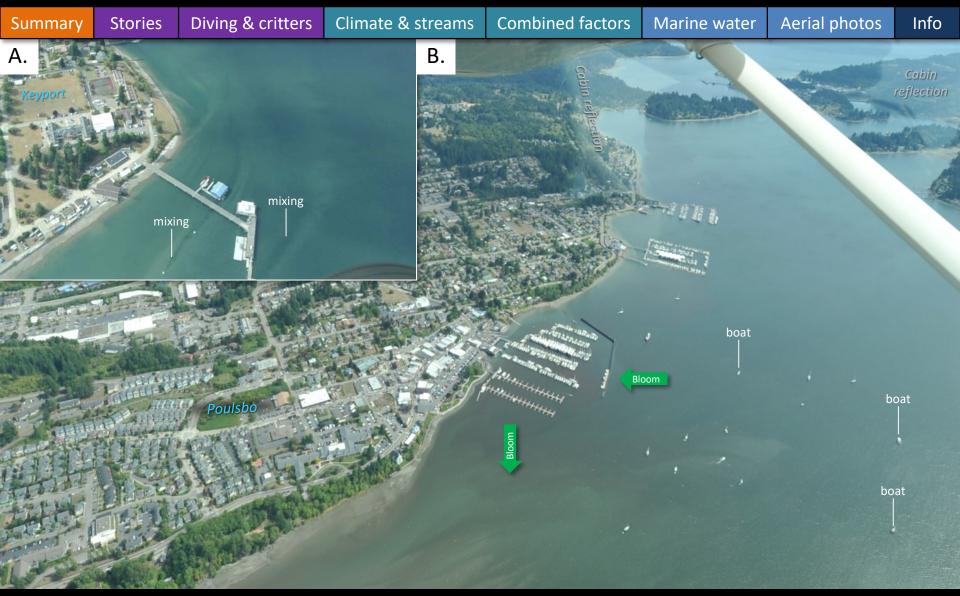


Patches of jellyfish and red-brown bloom mixed with what appears to be turquoise water. Location: Sinclair Inlet (Central Sound), 1:54 PM



Aerial photography 9-12-2019





A. Thin layer of surface water of different color mixing around piling structures. B. Red-brown bloom. Location: Liberty Bay (Central Sound), 2:02 PM



Red-brown bloom and very turbid water. Location: Quartermaster Harbor (Central Sound), 2:20 PM



Red-brown bloom and very turquoise water. Location: Quartermaster Harbor (Central Sound), 2:21 PM



Puyallup River plume, rich in sediment, extending into Central Sound. Location: Vashon Island and Commencement Bay (Central Sound), 2:23 PM



Macroalgae rafts accumulating in large tidal eddy. Location: Carr Inlet (South Sound), 2:23 PM



Multiple macroalgae rafts accumulating along parallel lines. Location: Carr Inlet (South Sound), 2:32 PM



Macroalgae patches at end of Balch Passage. Location: Balch Passage (South Sound), 2:35 PM



Sediment plume of Nisqually River hugging Anderson Island, flowing West (toward the bottom). Location: Nisqually Reach (South Sound), 2:37 PM



Red-brown bloom and turquoise water showing circulation of river water preferentially northward (toward the bottom). Location: Henderson Inlet (South Sound), 2:40 PM



A. Macroalgae rafts in southern Central Basin. B. Diffuse jellyfish smacks in West Sound, Orcas Island. Location: A. Normandy Park, B. Brace Point & Three Tree Point (Central Sound), C. West Sound (San Juan Islands).



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We have published 83 editions!

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

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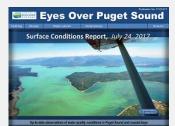
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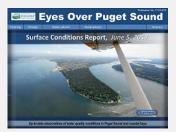
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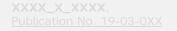
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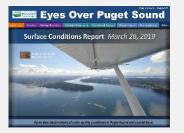


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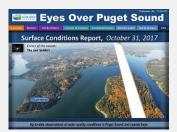




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Eyes Over Puget Sound

Surface Conditions Report: February 21, 2019



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Eyes Over Puget Sound



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Eyes Over Puget Sound

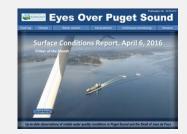
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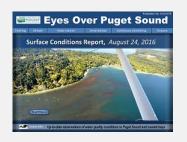
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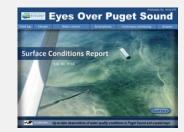
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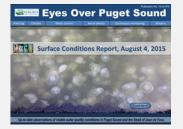
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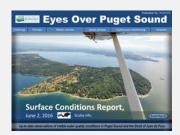
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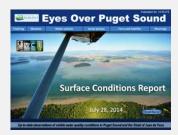
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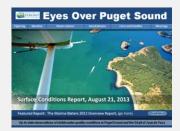
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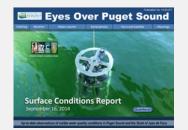
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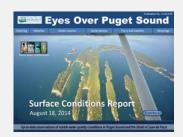
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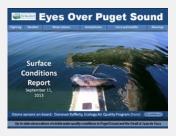
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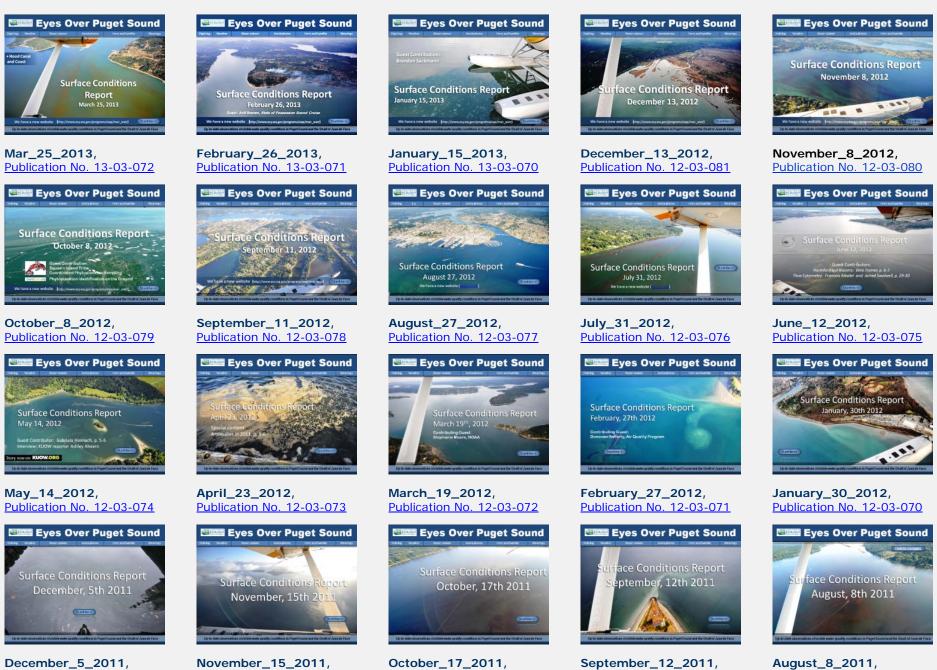
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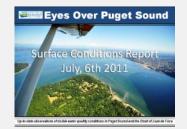


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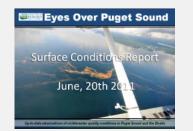
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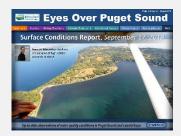
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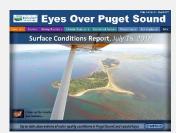
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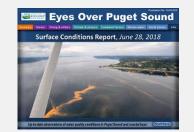
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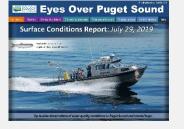
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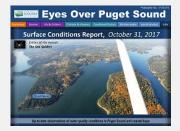
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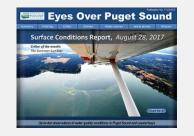
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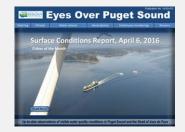
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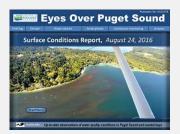
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March_16_2016, Publication No. 16-03-071



September_21_2015, Publication No. 15-03-077



June_6_2017, Publication No. 17-03-070



July_20_2016, Publication No. 16-03-075



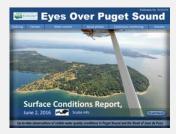
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August_8_2015, Publication No. 15-03-076



December_31_2016, Publication No. 16-03-079



June_27_2016, Publication No. 16-03-074



December_30_2015, Publication No. 15-03-080



July_6_2015, Publication No. 15-03-075



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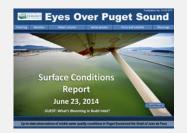
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December_31_2013, Publication No. 13-03-081

Eyes Over Puget Sound



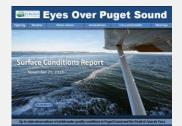
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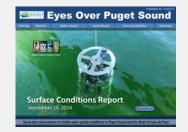
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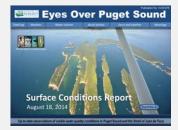
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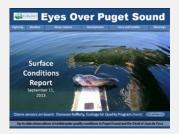
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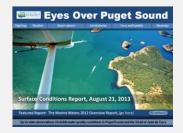
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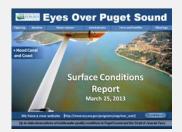
March_24_2014, Publication No. 14-03-071



September_11_2013, Publication No. 13-03-078



August_21_2013, Publication No. 13-03-077



Mar_25_2013, Publication No. 13-03-072



October_8_2012, Publication No. 12-03-079



May_14_2012, Publication No. 12-03-074



July_15_2013, Publication No. 13-03-076



February_26_2013, Publication No. 13-03-071



September_11_2012, Publication No. 12-03-078



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June_17_2013, Publication No. 13-03-075



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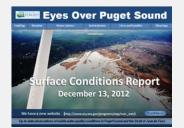
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March_19_2012, Publication No. 12-03-072



May_20_2013, Publication No. 13-03-074



December_13_2012, Publication No. 12-03-081



July_31_2012, Publication No. 12-03-076



February_27_2012, Publication No. 12-03-071



April_8_2013, Publication No. 13-03-073



November_8_2012, Publication No. 12-03-080



June_12_2012, Publication No. 12-03-075



January_30_2012, Publication No. 12-03-070

